

BY UNION 42
ARMSTRONG TO
CONFRONT THE
ALL BLACKS

EMMY AWARDS

For Jennifer, it is
Absolutely Fabulous

British celebrate, page 3

GO PLACES

African adventure
with 20% off

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SIMON JENKINS

In praise of Sir
Humphrey and his ilk

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30P

ghes

THE TIMES



No. 64,809

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1993

Croat militia turn prisoners of war into human bombs

ONE OF the three men cried "Don't shoot, don't shoot; we are Muslims!" as he stumbled unnaturally up the slope in no man's land towards the Bosnian army trenches above Novi Travnik in central Bosnia.

The cause of his hunched gait and the terror in his voice soon became apparent to the troops ahead of him. Anti-tank mines had been strapped to his chest and back. Rope bound his hands to his sides, and wire ran from his torso back towards the Croat militia positions from which he had appeared. It unravelled slowly as he advanced. His two companions had been identically rigged, converted into walking bombs.

Anthony Loyd describes how men of the Coldstream Guards had to recover the remains of three Muslims, blown up on a Bosnian battlefield by mines strapped to their bodies

Panic seized the trench defenders. An officer ordered his men to open fire they refused. "It was terrible," said one of them, Safet Duvajak, 30. "There was such a short time to make the decision. The officer ran back to the command bunker and asked what to do. Before we could decide, there were three huge explosions."

Mevudin Muslimovic, Nedad

Mujak, and Enes Hajric had been captured by the Croat militia during an assault two days before. They ended their lives in starlit spangled eruptions 30 yards from the Muslim lines, showering them with shrapnel and gore. A further depth of depravity and horror had been reached in Bosnia's war.

That night a group of soldiers scrambled over the tip of their

ridgeline trenches and crawled forward through the knee-high foliage to try to recover what was left of their comrades. Exposed on the forward slope separating their positions from their opponents, they managed only to recover a pair of legs before they were fired upon and forced to withdraw.

It was a month before the United Nations could organise a six-hour ceasefire to collect the remains of the other two. By then the Muslims refused to leave their trenches, doubting the Croats' integrity. It was left to three British soldiers to perform the grisly task. Captain Robert York, of the Coldstream Guards, found two sets of shattered remain, and the twin-flex

wire used to detonate them. "It couldn't have been caused by anything other than what is reported by the Bosnian army," he said. "This is a war crime."

Every faction in central Bosnia has consistently fought with complete disregard for any humanitarian code. Just as the Croats killed the Muslim villagers in Stupni Do a month ago, so the Muslims slaughtered Croats in Uzdol two months earlier. Such massacres are frequent and seldom exposed to the eyes of the press or UN. Snipers shoot women, children and the aged with as little compunction as they do enemy soldiers, while prisoners of war are often killed as a matter of routine,

or forced to dig trenches in areas exposed to lethal small-arms and sniper fire.

But the use of prisoners of war in this way signifies a further limit to the cold-bloodedness and cynical methods that walk the Balkan battlefields. The Croat militia admitted responsibility with an unnerving facility. In a dingy grey apartment building, Ilija Marin, 33, deputy commander of the Sijepan Tomasevic Brigade, the militia unit defending Novi Travnik, said the act was perpetrated by an individual soldier, and added a bizarre defence.

"Yes, it happened. One of my men did it. He didn't do it to kill them, only to force them to collect

his dead brother who lay between the lines," he said. "Then he saw Muslim soldiers moving in their positions, and he blew the men up. We tried to stop him, but he was ready even to shoot at us."

He sighed heavily, aware perhaps of how unconvincing his story sounded. "There are lots of similar incidents; it's not just Croats killing Muslims," he said. "But the world hasn't paid any attention, and we are not prepared to give up our soldier in the international community for trial." He paused again. "It's a dirty war. Insanity becomes normality here."

Convoy delayed, page 13

Rate cut fails to dispel Budget fears

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH Clarke yesterday delivered the interest rate cut that had always been expected as a sweetener to deficit-cutting measures in the Budget next week. But what should have been good news was greeted with widespread nervousness and disappointment.

The half-point cut takes the base rate to 5.5 per cent, the lowest for 16 years. But industry and financial markets were concerned by the announcement that it took "full account" of the Budget, apparently precluding another cut next Tuesday. Business leaders were hoping for a full one-point reduction to soften the blow of what most fear will be an unpalatable mix of tax increases and spending cuts on top of the higher taxes already in the pipeline for next April.

The decision to cut rates at all appeared to confirm that the Budget will contain measures which, without more substantial interest rate reductions, could jeopardise what is still a fragile and slow recovery characterised by very low confidence.

Some Conservatives argued, however, that if he had painful measures in store, the Chancellor would have held back the rate cut. David Willetts, parliamentary aide to Sir Norman Fowler, took heart from the announcement, saying: "Mr Clarke seems to be getting the deficit down. There is no reason to think that this should be a forerunner of an unpleasant Budget."

Most Tories believed that the cut was a precursor to a tough tax-raising Budget, though, and one senior MP said: "There was no need for this now. It makes you wonder what Mr Clarke has planned for next week."

The Chancellor said that he had decided, in consultation with the governor of the Bank of England, that the cut was

consistent with the government's inflation target. Officials also cited improved medium-term prospects for inflation and substantial interest rate cuts in continental Europe.

The move met with a mixed reaction from the big mortgage lenders. Only the Nationwide and the NatWest bank immediately announced a cut in their rates — from 7.99 to 7.74 per cent — while most of the others said they would hold fire until after the Budget.

The financial markets were

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initially boosted strongly by the news, but then both government bond prices and shares dropped back. On the stock market, the FTSE 100 gave up a gain of nearly 20 points to close 1.3 lower at 3,069.3.

While business leaders generally welcomed the cut, most felt it was not enough. Howard Davies of the CBI, who has been leading the call for cheaper borrowing, said: "This is a welcome move which is fully justified by the recent good news on inflation."

But some CBI members were less enthusiastic. The Building Employers' Confederation said: "Every little helps, but frankly we are looking for further cuts." Peter Morgan of the Institute of Directors said: "This reduction should certainly not be used as an excuse or a trade-off for further tax increases, which would be very bad news."

And Richard Brown of the British Chambers of Commerce said: "With inflation

running at 1.4 per cent and fiscal tightening inevitable, a bolder move is necessary to maintain consumer demand and avoid strangling the fragile recovery."

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, also called for a bigger cut, saying: "This timid move will do nothing to restore business confidence" and Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said: "My fear is that this may be nothing more than a sweetener for the bitter pill which follows in the Budget. I fear that the Conservatives will break yet more election promises by raising taxes on millions of ordinary people yet again."

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, said that the reduction, though minor, was good news for industry and would hopefully be passed on quickly to home owners, but he said: "It has the added disadvantage that it will reduce further the incomes of pensioners just above the income support level who are most vulnerable to the government's plans for VAT on fuel."

The timing of the cut was decided for the first time by the Bank governor, Eddie George. He and Mr Clarke agreed on the size of the cut a few days ago, but the timing was left to Mr George on the understanding that it would come within days rather than weeks.

John Major and Mr Clarke decided to introduce the system to try to deflect accusations that political considerations usually determine the timing of rate cuts. Downing Street and Treasury officials played down the significance of the concession, however. They denied that it was the first move towards an independent central bank and said the bank's discretion covered only a matter of days and covered the technical and market management aspects of any changes.

The Chancellor would still decide whether and by how much to adjust rates.



Graham Taylor showing the strain at an England press conference

England boss Taylor makes his grand exit

GRAHAM Taylor, once portrayed in a newspaper as a turnip head, yesterday accepted the blame for England's failure to qualify for the 1994 football World Cup Finals in America by resigning as team manager (John Goodbody writes).

With Sir Bert Millichip, the Football Association chairman, accepting that a "revolution" was needed to restore England's stature barely three years after they reached the

1990 World Cup semi-finals, Taylor said his resignation was "the appropriate course of action". With Taylor's assistant, Lawrie McMenemy, also resigning, a temporary manager will be appointed for the friendly games against Denmark on March 9 and Germany on April 20. A permanent appointment will be made later.

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Best equals worst work of art

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

RACHEL Whiteread last night pulled off a unique art double: she won not only the Turner Prize for Tate Gallery's Turner Prize for the best exhibition of contemporary art, but also a spoof award for the worst body of work produced last year.

Whiteread, whose latest work, *House*, involved casting a terrace house in concrete, emerged £60,000 richer from the dual awards: £20,000 from the Tate ceremony, and double that from the K Foundation, closely related to the pop group KLF and set up to present a playful foil to the world's most sought-after prize. Whiteread, who was born in London in 1963 and is

a former Slade School of Art student, made clear that she will accept the £40,000 from the K Foundation.

Her work consists of large casts from everyday objects such as sinks, baths, beds and mattresses. For *Ghost* she took casts of the four walls of a deserted room, and turned it inside out. *House*, at the junction of two roads in London's E3 district, has attracted a steady stream of visitors since it was unveiled. Despite pleas for a stay of execution, it will be demolished at the end of the month.

The Turner jury, chaired by Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, commended her work for

"its combination of austere monumentality and immediacy of reference to the everyday world", "haunting quality" and "poetic strangeness".

The K Foundation made its presence felt by buying up the commercial break within Channel 4's live coverage of the ceremony, and using the time to announce its own winner.

The official prize was as provocative as ever, with the "is it art?" school of criticism enjoying a vintage year. Attention has focussed on Whiteread's work and that of Vong Phaiphonit, a Laos-born installation artist whose entry comprised a seven-ton pile of rice over neon tubes.

MoT men 'victims of mistaken identity'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE man who shot dead two Department of Transport inspectors probably mistook them for someone else, it emerged last night.

With more than 100 police officers involved in the murder enquiry, a £25,000 reward was offered yesterday to find the killer of Alan Singleton, 56, of Skelmersdale, Lancashire, and Simon Bruno, 28, of Salford, Greater Manchester. They were shot at point-blank range at a garage in Stockport, Greater Manchester.

Police said they had ruled out the possibility that the two men were working undercover

on an MoT fraud investigation but have still to establish a motive for the murders. One theory is that the shotgun murders on Monday were a case of mistaken identity, and police have not discounted the possibility that the gunman was a hired killer.

Derek Lindop, president of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, who offered the reward, said: "We will assist the police in whatever capacity we can... to make certain the perpetrators are brought to justice."

Motoring fraud cost, page 7

Molyneux urges Major to call off Dublin initiative

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major's Northern Ireland peace initiative suffered a body blow last night when the Ulster Unionists virtually urged him to call off his attempts to secure an agreement with Dublin.

The prime minister was warned of "simmering fears" of betrayal over the peace moves. He was told to build on the cross-community hunger for peace in the North and to work towards a strengthening of local democracy.

James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist party leader, declared in the Commons that the British government was being required to do a deal not with Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, but with Gerry Adams. "No amount of diplomatic verbiage can conceal the uncomfortable fact that Dublin is merely the conduit," he told MPs.

His intervention was a serious setback for Mr Major because his strategy for achieving peace in Northern Ireland is as much based on his talks with Dublin as it is on reconciling the conflicting views in the North.

Mr Molyneux accepted that Dublin would not be able

to deliver the unionist demand that Ireland should give up its territorial claim on the North. He also suggested that the price being demanded by the IRA in exchange for a halt to its murderous activities — a united Ireland — was too great.

He gave a warning of an impending crisis in Ulster unless action was taken to calm the simmering fears of betrayal that the Hume-Adams peace plan had aroused and said that "something must be done to reduce the fever".

Instead Mr Molyneux, whose support is vital to Mr Major's high-risk efforts, urged him to concentrate his efforts on reaching a settlement between the four main political parties in Northern Ireland. "It is those endeavours, supported as they are by the prime minister, which will succeed where high drama will fail as high drama always fails."

Ministers had been anticipating a cautionary speech

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MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Piece of nonsense which passes all understanding

It is as if the long recess, the Queen's Speech and the opening of a new session of Parliament had never happened. In walked the PM on Tuesday afternoon, at 2.12, as usual. He was wearing his grey suit and sombre tie, as usual. Opposite him sat John Smith, as usual, in his usual dark suit, white shirt and tie.

As usual, the Labour leader rose for the second time at the first cherry. It was a question from a backbencher, John Ward (C. Poole), about the economic news. Mr Ward thought the economic news was marvelous. It occurred to us that the simple insertion of the letter d into Mr Ward's question would render him "John Ward (C. Poole)" and that on yesterday's performance this would add something to our assessment.

Then came John Smith (Lab. Monklands East). It strikes us that without adding any letters to Mr Smith's question, but simply by rearranging the existing ones, we arrive at "John Smith (land man stales, OK)" — or, indeed, "John Smith (lost balde man sank)".

The twice-weekly spat between Smith and Major commenced, as usual. These days it follows an almost unvarying routine.

Mr Smith gets up, puts a question to Mr Major, and demands an answer, "yes or no". Mr Major gets up, ignores the question, and puts a different question to Mr Smith: will he answer that, yes or no?

Then Smith gets up. The whole House, he says, will have noticed that the prime minister has failed to reply to his question. "Why on earth can he not give a straight answer?"

Major rises. The entire nation, he barks, will have observed the Labour leader avoiding his question. What, please, is the answer? Smith gets up for the last

time. Doesn't this just prove, he declares, that the government are a rotten lot and ought to resign?

Major replies. Have we not just witnessed, he asks, a complete shower of an Opposition, unfit to oppose, let alone govern?

And the House moves on. Each leader has been roundly cheered by his own side after each of his interventions. Each has drawn hollow laughs at each stage from the MPs opposite.

For the record, yesterday's spat featured Smith asking whether proposed increases in national insurance would cost the average family £34 a week. Major asked how would Smith himself would raise revenue? Smith retorted that Major had not answered his question. Had he not denied he would increase this tax?

Major replied by asking whether Smith had not himself, planned to increase it? Smith repeated his question, and asked why "on earth" anyone should believe Tory promises? Major asked how Smith could have the cheek to complain at tax increases when his own European commitments implied increases of his own...

And they both sat down, huffing and puffing. At the far end of the Chamber, up in the Strangers' gallery, a hundred and fifty bemused tourists stared uncomprehendingly at the weird scene — wondering whether the exchange was perhaps some kind of parliamentary rite, its meaning lost in the mists of tradition. At the other end of the Chamber, journalists in the Press gallery dropped their pencils. These days we hardly bother to record the exchange.

Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock gave us a pantomime without meaning. Major and Smith, equally meaningless, do not even provide the pantomime.



Caterers Anne Lennie, left, and Christine Burns mark Scottish School Meals Week by serving lunch to MPs outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday. The MPs — from left Alex Salmond (SNP), George Robertson (Labour) and Phil Galle (Conservative) — are all supporting a local authority campaign to maintain the provision of school meals in Scotland and to highlight their nutritional content

Major to increase cold weather aid

By JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

■ Cold weather payments to vulnerable groups are expected to rise from £6 to £7 a week to help compensate for VAT on fuel

THE prime minister announced yesterday that cold weather payments would be increased as part of the compensation package for VAT on fuel that is to be unveiled in the Budget next week.

The payments to vulnerable groups, which are automatically triggered by freezing weather, are expected to go up from £6 to £7 a week. The announcement came as temperatures dropped to record lows in many parts.

The present cold snap has already triggered the first emergency payments in Eskdalemuir, Scotland.

Under the system, payments are paid only to three groups on income support: families with children under five, the disabled and pensioners. Last winter £15 million was paid out to a potential 2.8 million recipients.

The payments are given when temperatures fall or are

predicted to fall to freezing or below for a seven-day period in a specific geographical area. Speaking in the Commons, John Major promised quick and efficient assistance to help people with heating bills. "We will of course enhance the present cold weather payments scheme and the House will hear the details next week."

Yesterday the freezing fog and ice temporarily shut airports in the North and South West and closed some schools when heating systems failed. Conditions were worst in the South and West. The M4 between London and Bristol was twice closed to traffic, causing jams over 40 miles long.

Two police cars were involved in an accident near Chippenham, Wiltshire.

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Weather, page 22

Thatcher 'misled House' over Iraq

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher misled Parliament over sales of British defence equipment to Iraq, Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair was told yesterday.

Her reply to a written parliamentary question from the Labour MP Harry Cohen in April 1989 was one of a series of untruthful responses given to Parliament by ministers, Eric Boston, the trade and industry department's former head of export controls, told the enquiry.

The former prime minister said in a written reply that there had been no changes to the government's self-imposed guidelines restricting arms exports to Iraq. The answer was one of number which contained "misinterpretations, inaccuracies, misleading statements and things which could have been done differently," Mr Boston said.

The guidelines were secretly rewritten by Foreign Office, trade and industry and defence ministers in December

1988, after the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, in an attempt to allow more exports. The enquiry has not yet established whether Lady Thatcher was informed of the decision. She is expected to give evidence next month.

Mr Boston said that the ministers' decision not to announce the changes had caused great difficulty for the civil servants who had to draft ministerial replies. "We got into a mess," he said. Written answers were seen by a succession of ministers and civil servants as "something of an art-form rather than a means of communication".

He contradicted earlier evidence by William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office minister at the time the guidelines were changed. Mr Boston said that parliamentary answers were drafted to give the impression that Britain had not relaxed the arms export guidelines, when the opposite was the case.

The hearing continues.

Retreat sounds for mum's army

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten yesterday dropped his controversial plans for a "mum's army" of non-graduate teachers to teach five to seven-year-olds after only one year's training.

In the latest in a series of embarrassing policy reverses, the education secretary was forced to bow to almost unanimous opposition from teaching unions demanding that the principle of an all-graduate profession be safeguarded. The scheme aimed to harness fresh talent, particularly that of mothers and nursery nurses.

Mr Patten announced instead new training for teaching assistants. The courses will concentrate on enhancing skills in reading, writing and arithmetic to allow assistants — at present, mostly part-time volunteers — to play a greater classroom role supporting qualified teachers.

Yesterday's rethink was part of a "back to basics" package of primary teacher training reforms. Mr Patten said it would ensure trainee teachers spent more time learning to teach English, mathematics and science. A switch to more school-based training reflects ministerial dissatisfaction with some university teacher-training departments.

The "mum's army" retreat was welcomed by teachers' leaders. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The introduction of properly trained classroom assistants will help free teachers from many routine activities and allow them to concentrate on the real task of teaching."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, the main moderate union, said the idea of training the educational equivalent of paramedics was sensible.

Mr Patten's rethink appeared to have been hastily prepared. It has not been decided how long the courses for "specialist teacher assistants" will last, how places should be made available or whether students would receive grants for attendance. Pilot courses start in September.

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Interest rate cut

Lenders hold fire until the Budget

By OUR PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY one million existing borrowers with Nationwide, the second largest building society, will see their mortgage payments fall in the new year following yesterday's half-point cut in base rates to 5.5 per cent.

But most other lenders are waiting to see if there is a further base rate cut in the Budget or soon after. The Halifax, the largest lender, signalled its intention to cut rates after the Budget, whatever the Chancellor announces.

The Nationwide cut its rates by a quarter of a percentage point, bringing the cost of loans up to £60,000 down to 7.4 per cent (an APR of 8.1 per cent). The rate for loans between £60,000 and £120,000 is now 7.6 per cent (APR 8.1 per cent) and 7.45 per cent (APR 7.9 per cent) for loans between £120,000 to £300,000. Repayments on a £60,000 loan will be £407 instead of £415.

The new rates will apply immediately for new borrowers and from January 1 for existing borrowers. The 400,000 borrowers whose payments are reviewed annually will get the benefit of the lower rate because their payments are not set until February.

Brian Davis, Nationwide

operations director, said it may cut rates further "if the market changes as a result of the Budget or otherwise". But he added: "We would be very surprised if rates moved again in the Budget."

The only other lender to change its rates was Newcastle building society, which announced a cut of 0.24 of a percentage point for new borrowers.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "This rate reduction will lead to a lower Halifax mortgage rate. But we are now so close to the Budget that it makes sense to wait and see the totality of the Chancellor's package on November 30."

Abbey National said: "Given the low levels of interest rates, we will have to consider our response to this base rate cut very carefully, taking into account the interests of our savers as well as our borrowers."

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Unionist warning

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from Mr Molyneux because of the growing fears among his unionist supporters of a sell-out.

Mr Major is to have a second meeting today with the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who has vetoed talks with Sinn Féin, but Mr Major's initiative will go ahead with the Dublin summit next month.

Mr Molyneux said: "There are many who would prefer to use their energies and talents in drawing together the various strands of what, in the aftermath of recent atrocities, has proved to be one community not two. That is

the real message of the thousands who marched for peace over recent weeks."

Mr Paisley said last night that James Molyneux's speech represented a complete U-turn.

"He has heard the signs of the times and has got the message from the people of Ulster," he said. "It was a very strong speech."

Dublin was taken aback last night by Mr Molyneux's harsh tone. One government source said it would not react to the rhetoric of a backwoodsman.

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Man charged with couple's murder

A 37-year-old man was charged last night with murdering Derek Severs, 68, a retired ICI executive, and his wife Eileen, 69, who disappeared from their home ten days ago. He will appear in court at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, today.

Despite an intensive search over the past three days around the village of Hambleton, Leicestershire, their bodies have not been found. The alarm was raised by worried neighbours and the couple's two cars were found on their bungalow drive. Mrs Severs was made an MBE for her voluntary work in the community.

Police to test flick baton

Police are to test a side-handled baton in 13 areas from the start of next year. The 13½ in baton, which extends to 24 in at the flick of the wrist, will be tested in London, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Strathclyde, Sussex, Thames Valley and West Mercia.

Tax details privatised

Computer processing of millions of confidential tax details is to be sold off to EDS-Scion. Annual notification of individual and corporate tax assessments, tax codings and reimbursement of excess tax will be progressively transferred to the company from April. Inland Revenue officials will continue to handle individual and company tax returns.

Christmas reinstated

The Pre-School Playgroups Association has blamed cancellation by a playgroup in Lewisham, southeast London, of its Christmas celebrations on overzealous interpretation of its guidelines. Regional officials thought they meant festivals for every race and creed or none at all. The Lewisham group, meanwhile, will celebrate Christmas. Letters, page 19

Top secretary chosen

The winner of the United Kingdom's Top Secretary award is Jennifer Potthar, left, who lists the job's chief requirements as "initiative, common sense and the ability to forward-plan; a flexible, enthusiastic approach and a good sense of humour are equally important". Ms Potthar, 23, of Lytham St Anne's, beat 500 entrants to win the title sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Arts cuts opposed

Eminent figures from many art forms spoke out yesterday against proposed arts spending cuts. The rally at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London, included painters, actors, conductors, film-makers, three arts administrators, Anthony Everitt, secretary-general of the Arts Council. Protesters afterwards lobbied MPs. Photograph, page 22

International triumph coincides with launch of campaign to repel tabloid television



The Emmy in the popular arts category was shared by Channel 4's television newsroom satire, *Drop the Dead Donkey*, left, and the BBC's *Absolutely Fabulous*, starring Jennifer Saunders, left, and Joanna Lumley, right

Absolutely fabulous! Home-grown entertainers grab Emmy awards

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH television reassured its reputation as among the best in the world on Monday night by winning six International Emmy awards in New York. Five were for programmes, while a special Emmy was awarded to Richard Dunn, chief executive of Thames Television.

Unnatural Pursuits, a BBC production starring Alan Bates as a drunken playwright, won the Emmy for drama. The BBC's *Absolutely Fabulous*, starring Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders, tied with Channel 4's television newsroom satire *Drop the Dead Donkey* for the award in the popular arts category.

The success coincided with the launch in London last night of a campaign to boost quality television in the face of mass-produced British programmes, cheap imported



Winners: Dudley Moore, with guest James Galway, the flautist, and Alan Bates

shows and endless repeats, collectively known as "tabloid television".

British programmes beat off competition from an unprecedented 269 entries from 35 countries at the International Emmy ceremony, judged by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC network television, said: "This is important inter-

national recognition for the quality and appeal of BBC drama and comedy." John Willis, Channel 4 director of programmes, said: "It is always gratifying to receive international recognition at the highest level for our programming."

Channel 4 took the performing arts Emmy for its series *Concertos*, a classical music series presented by Dudley

Moore. Granada television's *Disappearing World: We Are All Neighbours*, about a village in Bosnia, shared the documentary prize with a Japanese production. Channel 4 was also part of an international co-production team which won the arts documentary Emmy for *The Wonderful Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl*, broadcast on German and Belgian tele-

vision. Richard Dunn of Thames was presented with the International Emmy Founders' Award for "the sum total of work recognised throughout the world".

However, Derek Lister, of the Directors Guild of Great Britain, warned last night that urgent action was needed to combat declining standards in British television if the industry was to retain its worldwide reputation. The guild, which represents some 1,000 professionals, met in London last night to formulate a plan of action to halt what it sees as the downhill trend.

He said: "British viewers are not getting the best programmes because there is a prevailing ethos at the BBC and ITV of efficiency and accountability-led decision making, which is stifling creativity. The creative role of the director is being reduced to that of a mere technician."

Marcus Plantin, page 33

Love of the Brits fails to win US viewers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN'S domination of the Emmy awards rightly rewards the high standards of British television and filmmaking, but also illustrates the growing gap between what the critics applaud and what the American public watches.

British films attract a level of critical acclaim here that is the envy of US-based film companies, yet in terms of mass culture, British productions seem to have little impact.

The vast television networks show virtually no British series, while the few productions that do make it are shown almost exclusively on public broadcasting networks, with only a tiny share of the viewing market.

A few British productions have attained a special place in American hearts, most notably those of the late Benny Hill. One of the more depressing aspects of living in the US is the number of

Americans who regard Benny Hill as the pinnacle of British comic achievement.

A hard core of American Monty Python addicts has built up over the years, and *Fawlty Towers* is attracting a growing, if often somewhat baffled, audience. But British productions usually need an American face to sell here.

British films have become hot properties in the wake of such successes as *The Crying Game*, *Orlando* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, and last week *Variety* magazine reported that US distributors are "dangling the kind of long-term development and housekeeping deals that the cash-starved Brits would have killed for a couple of years ago".

Britain plainly dominates the high-brow end of the market, but British films (still less, television shows) have some way to go before earning the profits available to the home-grown product.

BBC to put its drama skills on sale

By OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC's drama department will start selling its services to the private sector next April to make extra money for the corporation.

The new policy for the world's highest television drama unit, announced yesterday, will be the first time that a BBC programme department has marketed its production services. It is part of the corporation's long-term plan to increase competitiveness with the commercial sector.

The drama department's three units — series, serials and films — will be merged into a single operation. Production resources, including camera and sound crews, will be pooled and marketed to outside producers making programmes for the BBC.

Charles Denton, head of drama, said that if the BBC did not take this step, it would risk losing further skilled production workers to the independent sector. He agreed there would be redundancies.

Wife died 24 hours after row

A POLICE sergeant discussed divorce with his 17-year-old mistress less than 24 hours before the death of his wife, a court was told yesterday.

Stephen Jones, 34, denies murdering his wife in January. He told Caernarvon Crown Court that she died when she accidentally fell on to the patio at their home in Ewloe, Clwyd, and that afterwards he had faked a road accident.

Mr Jones said he had discussed the possibility of divorce with Julie Rutherford, a barmaid, less than 24 hours before the death of his wife Madallin, 37.

He said that he and his wife married in 1980. The marriage had been happy until 1990. When things cooled, he met Miss Rutherford in June 1991 and within a month a sexual relationship began. He told the court that Miss Rutherford had not pressurised him to sever any links with his wife.

He said his wife died after they had quarrelled about his affair. He decided to fake the road accident so he placed her in the front seat of her car and crashed it.

He had told his wife a month before about his affair. "She said she knew. She said she didn't care," he said. The trial continues.

Intent needed for Bulger convictions

By RONALD FAUX

THE two boys accused of killing James Bulger could be convicted of murder only if the jurors were sure each boy knew what he was doing was seriously wrong, the judge said yesterday.

It would not matter who inflicted the fatal injury if they were sure both child A and child B had decided to kill or do really serious injury to the infant. Mr Justice Morland told Preston Crown Court.

"The crucial question is not what was their intention when James Bulger was taken from the Strand, or during the long walk of over two miles to the railway line, but what was the intention of each defendant on the railway line when the fatal injuries were inflicted?"

The judge told the jury of nine men and three women they must not allow their emotions to warp their judgment when reaching verdicts on the two 11-year-old boys, who deny abducting and murdering James and attempting to abduct another child.

Witnesses had been subjected to exceptional strain because of the publicity surrounding the case. "All of those involved in this case will have been emotionally affected by the circumstances of James Bulger's death, but I

am sure each of you will assess the evidence and reach your conclusions dispassionately and objectively."

The prosecution alleged that James was abducted from a shopping precinct in Bootle, Merseyside, on February 21, and was led by the boys for two and half miles across Liverpool to a railway track at Walton, where he was stoned and battered to death.

The judge told the jury the boys had no abnormality of mind and were of average intelligence. They attended a Church of England primary school and were taught the difference between right and wrong. He said James's death was caused not by a single stone, but involved a number of blows to the skull.

"You will consider why James Bulger was stripped of his shoes, socks, trousers, and underpants when he was attacked, why the body was moved from one part of the track to the other line. Was that to suggest that the child had been subjected to some form of assault, possibly by an adult, and then run over by a train? Was that to conceal or attempt to conceal the true cause of death?"

The judge is expected to finish his summing-up today.

Killing and rape may be linked

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who stabbed a young mother to death in front of her 18-month-old daughter may have raped another young woman less than half a mile away 48 hours earlier, police believe.

Detectives investigating the two crimes at Ipswich at the weekend are working closely and said the man could strike again. Although they have not yet established any firm link between the attacks, detectives think it unlikely that two brutal criminals have been attacking women in the same small area in so short a time.

In the first attack on Friday evening a hooded man attacked a 23-year-old office cleaner as she was working. He blindfolded, gagged and tied her, then raped her.

In the other attack, on Sunday afternoon, Karen Hales, 21, was repeatedly stabbed by an intruder who set fire to her body to try to disguise the crime. Police believe he watched her boyfriend leave the house for work before entering the house and trying to rape her.

Police are taking expert advice on how to coax information from the murdered woman's daughter who witnessed the attack.

Casting ash on football's field of dreams

By ALAN HAMILTON

THESE are suicidal times for the English football supporter. But so many fans who die of natural causes wish their ashes scattered on the hallowed turf of their home club that the Football Association has issued guidelines to groundsmen on how best to dispose of the devoted departed without harming the grass.

With almost three quarters of all Britons now choosing cremation, a significant number request that their remains be strewn over some meaningful location, which for the football fan is usually the goalmouth. Ashes being ground bone, however, too many dead fans crowding the penalty area causes bald patches in the turf.

Under the heading "Scattering tips for groundsmen," the current issue of the FA magazine, which is read by

players, staff and supporters, says: "Listen sympathetically to fans who request particular parts of the pitch, such as the centre circle or goalmouth. But it is probably best to scatter outside the field of play, at the side or end of the pitch — perhaps opposite the fan's old seat or favourite spot on the terraces."

"There is no need to sprinkle all the ashes. You can just scatter a sample. A large pile could kill the grass."

"On a windy day, it is best to scatter ashes upwind; brush the ashes about to ensure a light and even spread."

"An alternative to scattering is burial of the ashes or urn."

City, with 22,000 crowds, has a dozen. Bolton Wanderers, with gates of 8,000, has just four.

Liverpool tries not to refuse anyone, but says it is running out of space. Everton allows only special cases. Spurs used to scatter a score of fans every year, but had a bad experience a couple of seasons ago when a scattering of ashes in the goalmouth was followed by a downpour, resulting in a nasty bald patch. Arsenal dislikes ash-scattering, but is willing to consider urn burials on the sidelines.

Stan Gibson, Manchester City groundsmen at Maine Road for 33 years, said: "I see nothing wrong with it. It doesn't harm the pitch, doesn't cost anything, and it's great to see the relatives leaving the ground a bit happier than when they came in."

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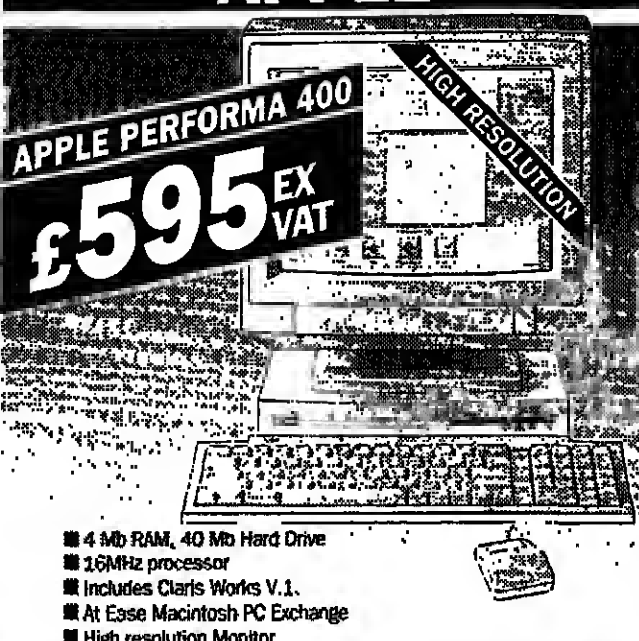
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Judge frees woman who cried rape after sex on Tube

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who falsely accused a colleague of rape after a night of sexual adventure with a stranger was allowed to walk free from the Old Bailey yesterday. The judge told her that, but for "very moving" medical reports on her condition, she would have jailed her for at least 18 months.

Susan Gooch, 27, was told by Judge Roger Gooch that she would be brought back before the court if she failed to comply with the conditions of a two-year probation order, which includes a year of medical treatment. He told her that she had "displayed an almost animal type of lust" and, when she realised what she had done, she took "the coward's way out".

Gooch, of Finner, northwest London, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice. She left court without comment.

The court was told that she had sex with Simon Johnson, 25, a building site manager, then made a false accusation of rape against David Dunn, 23, a fellow clerk at Wagon Finance in Harrow, north London.

Michael Cousins, for the prosecution, said that Gooch

A young clerk was stripped and kept in a police cell for 13 hours after a colleague accused him of a rape he did not commit

met Mr Johnson in September last year at a restaurant in Covent Garden. They kissed passionately and fondled each other. They had sex in a shop doorway and later on a Tube train.

As she left the station, she made hysterical complaints to a cab driver and police that she had been raped by Mr Dunn, who was arrested, stripped and made to provide samples. He spent 13 hours at a police station before his innocence was proved. He was sacked, but later reinstated.

Gooch could not explain why she denounced Mr Dunn, who was described by colleagues as "one of the nicest people you could wish to meet". Mr Dunn had said in an earlier interview outside court: "I was a normal guy until she blew my world apart. I had to tell my friends and family about the accusations. It made me feel dirty. When I was telling the police, I felt that they were thinking 'dirty bastard'."

The judge said that he was

allowing Gooch to go free after reading "extremely disturbing" medical reports. He did not specify her medical condition but said a doctor felt that it was treatable.

He told her: "Something snapped in your mind which caused you to behave in a way that was totally alien to your education, upbringing and background. It must have been a searing and entirely unpleasant experience for that young man and you were entirely responsible."

He ordered Gooch to pay £1,000 prosecution costs from the £15,000 compensation she is expecting from a car accident which happened several years ago.

John Murphy, a British Transport Police inspector, said outside the court that Mr Dunn was the real victim in the case. He said such false allegations made police involved in similar cases extremely wary of getting things wrong. He added: "Men have got to be protected too from this type of allegation."



Susan Gooch "took the coward's way out" after sex with a stranger, the judge said

Mackay launches broadside at Sunday traders

By Jonathan Prynn and Robin Young

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday set himself at odds with John Major when he declared himself against sweeping reform of Sunday shopping laws and in favour of the traditional religious Sunday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who used to be a senior elder in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, launched an emotional defence of the sabbath as a day of "rest and worship" in a debate in the Lords on the Queen's Speech.

He described Sundays as "a divine provision for rest and worship well designed to suit the needs of the human spirit as well as the human body".

The sabbath was "a privilege accorded to us by divine commandment not imposed as a burden but intended to operate in a beneficial way so as, for example, to allow the needs of doctors and other care workers to be taken into account". However, he admitted that, ultimately, Sunday observance was a matter of personal responsibility.

Lord Mackay became the first cabinet minister to air his views on Sunday trading since the government published its bill last week. The tone and language of his comments sharply contrasted with the opinions of other senior government ministers who have

expressed personal views on the controversial Sunday trading issue. Mr Major, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Howard have all indicated that they back deregulation.

Lord Mackay's views underline the breadth of division, even between cabinet ministers, over the issue of Sunday trading. John Gummer, the environment minister, has also voiced his strong opposition to Sunday shopping on religious grounds.

MPs and ministers are to be allowed a free vote on the government's bill to reform Sunday trading, which offers three options ranging from abolition of all restrictions to a tough regime of regulation allowing supermarkets to open their doors only on the four Sundays immediately before Christmas.

Sainsbury moved quickly yesterday to try to repair damage to the Sunday trading cause after a leaked company memo from the retail sales director suggested that promotion prospects could be blighted if staff refused to work on Sundays.

David Sainsbury, the chairman, ordered a "categorical assurance" that managers' promotion prospects would not be affected if they declined Sunday working.

NHS lists are getting longer, say patients

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Services Correspondent

DIFFICULTIES getting hospital appointments and long waiting times are worsening in the NHS despite increased spending and promises in the patient's charter.

A survey comparing patients' attitudes before and after the NHS reforms shows that most feel the health service has not improved and may have worsened.

Twice as many people had difficulty arranging in-patient treatment in 1993 compared with 1989, the year before the NHS reforms, up from 6 to 12 per cent. More than one in ten complained of difficulty getting an outpatient appointment but two thirds of patients are unsure how to complain.

The survey, by the National Consumer Council, found that satisfaction with the NHS was lowest for dentistry. More than a quarter of those who had tried to find an NHS dentist had had difficulty and nearly one in ten had ended up not seeing a dentist at all. Figures obtained in a parliamentary answer by Labour yesterday show that dentists have removed more than half a million people from their lists since July 1992, when the government cut their fees for providing NHS treatment.

A study by the Audit Commission says that many hospitals are increasing patients' distress by failing to tell them all they need to know. Women with breast cancer, who are in a state of shock when first told the news, are in some cases given no other opportunity to talk about their options for treatment.

Allergies vaccine promises rich reward

By Our Health Services Correspondent

FIVE scientists have formed a private company to develop an allergy vaccine that could turn them into millionaires.

Dr Denis Stanworth, who announced the discovery of the vaccine in *The Lancet* three years ago, is to head the company, Peptide Therapeutics, set up to exploit the results of his research. City analysts predict that Peptide could become one of the biggest health care companies in Britain if trials of the vaccine and associated drugs are successful.

Dr Stanworth, who is leaving the department of immunology at Birmingham University after 40 years, said that early results showed the vaccine was effective against all major allergies, including most hay fever, some types of asthma and allergies to house dust and foods. Based on a peptide — a small part of a protein — the vaccine works in a different way from conventional anti-allergy drugs. Trials of the vaccine are expected to begin next year.

The peptide-based drugs block the allergic reaction at an earlier point in the process than conventional drugs by interfering with the production of immunoglobulin molecules. These fix on to cells known as mast cells triggering the release of substances including histamine, which produce the allergic reaction.

Dr Stanworth said: "I have been a poor scientist all my life. Our financial advisers tell us we could make a lot of money but we are taking it with a pinch of salt. We might become rich on paper."

GP's smear testing attacked in report

A DOCTOR'S method of testing women for cervical cancer, described as unusual and probably self-invented, was criticised in a report published yesterday.

The report, prepared after Dr Felix Lustman was asked to stop using the technique last month, also questions the control that family health services authorities (FHSAs) have over GPs.

It recommends that the responsibilities of FHSAs concerning GPs and their ability to challenge clinical practice "should be made explicit".

More than 700 women were invited to have new smear tests after it was discovered that Dr Lustman, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, used his fingers rather than an instrument called a speculum. The report, by Northern Regional Health Authority, describes this as "unusual... probably extremely so" and speculates that he "heard about it by word of mouth or — more probably — invented it himself". Drawbacks included the possibility that test material might be lost. The report says that al-

though the issue came to the attention of the FHSA in May last year, Dr Lustman carried on using the method for 16 more months. The FHSA decided "not to take matters further" and that it was not necessary to recall patients after advice that there were "insufficient grounds to consider such a step". It was only after a patient complained that the doctor was ordered to stop smear tests last month.

The report says the FHSA acted properly in the first instance, but should have sought confirmation from an expert whom Dr Lustman said supported his technique. Also, it should have sought advice from the national cytology screening programme.

The expert, John Monaghan, director of gynaecological oncology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, said Dr Lustman did not "routinely use a speculum as he finds that many of his patients, being lower socioeconomic group, object".

Solicitors for Dr Lustman said he was not aware of concern about his method until this September.

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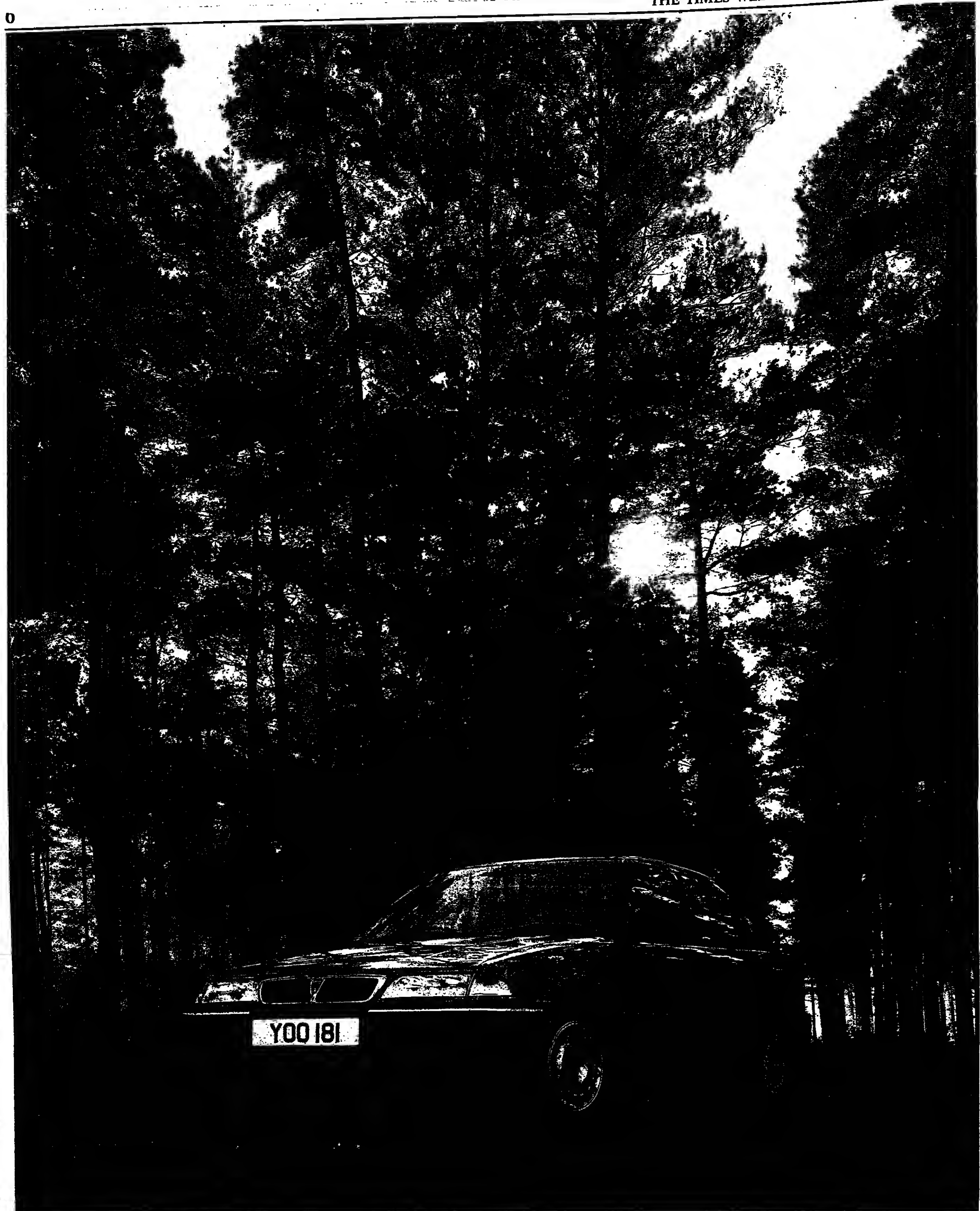
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Mistaken identity blamed for death of MoT inspectors

By Bill Frost and Richard Duce

TWO transport department inspectors shot dead at a garage in Stockport, Greater Manchester, are believed to have been victims of a gangland killing that went wrong.

Police said yesterday that the "cold-blooded and callous" murders of Alan Singleton and Simon Bruno were almost certainly cases of mistaken identity.

The inspectors were involved in a routine MoT test certificate enquiry at Chestergate Autos when they were shot in the head by a lone gunman with a 12-bore shotgun.

Police stressed that Mr Singleton, 56, and Mr Bruno, 28, the father of a 16-month-old girl, were not involved in

■ A £25,000 reward has been offered for information that leads to the "brutal and callous" killer of two family men

undercover work. Det Supt Rod Murray, who is in charge of an investigation involving more than a hundred officers, spoke of his horror yesterday at "the cold-blooded, callous shooting of two family men just doing their job. They were upstanding, hard-working members of the community. I cannot stress enough the brutal and callous nature of this offence."

A £25,000 reward was offered yesterday by the Retail Motor Industry Federation for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer. The inspectors had

called at the garage at about 3.30pm on Monday to investigate a complaint from a member of the public. "The two men were sitting in the garage office going through some of their own documents. A short time later a man in dark clothing entered the room and shot them dead at close range," Mr Murray said.

The garage is believed to have been taken over by two brothers, Thomas and Walter Bourke, six months ago. They service vehicles and supply exhausts and tyres.

Police said that they were keeping an open mind on the motive for the murders. Mr Murray said he could not rule out the possibility of the murderer being a hired killer or that the dead men were victims of mistaken identity. He said staff at the garage, some of whom saw the murders, had been interviewed but "so far we have not managed to obtain a clear sequence of events".

Detectives want to interview the white male driver of a red Ford Sierra that left the murder scene at speed. They also want to trace the driver of a large orange van which was in the vicinity.

Mr Singleton's son Craig, who is on honeymoon in Gambia, was told of the double murder early yesterday. He was flying back to Britain last night. Mr Bruno's wife Susan, who has a 16-month-old daughter Katy, was in a state of shock.

Mr Singleton, who played with a brass band in his home town of Skelmersdale, was remembered yesterday by fellow musicians as "a kind and gentle man". Alan Turton, a former band member, said: "He was always considerate and went out of his way to help others."

Mr Singleton was operations manager at the transport department's Bredbury office, Stockport, and had worked there for some years. His younger colleague joined the department four years ago.

Farmer cries foul over order of the horse nappy



Mike McKenzie, above, has been told to dress his horses in nappies to keep the seafarers at Hastings clear of manure. The borough council ordered the clean-up after complaints by café owners (Andrew Pierce writes). Mr McKenzie, 44, whose family business has nine horses, said: "I am not sure where I will find nappies big enough. If this idea catches on, what is going to

happen at Trooping the Colour?" He goes everywhere on horseback, runs horse-drawn tours of the town, uses the horses to deliver produce from his farm at Sedlescombe and operates a horse-drawn hearse. "I think nappies, or chutes as the council has also taken to calling them, will be uncomfortable for the horses," he said. Nigel Ray, deputy borough environmental health officer,

said: "This sounds funny but it is a serious problem. After all, we expect the owner of a dog that fouls the streets to clean up the mess." Cities such as Ostend and Prague have made similar efforts to curb manure. In Hastings, council dustmen cleared the mess until the refuse service was privatised.

Letters, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man killed wife who had affair

A husband who strangled his wife after discovering that she was having an affair was jailed for five years yesterday. Exeter Crown Court cleared Mark Williams, 29, a bricklayer, of murdering his wife Beverly, 26, mother of their two children, at their home in Exeter last December but convicted him of manslaughter by reason of provocation.

Williams eavesdropped through a back window at their home as his wife made three telephone calls to her lover, a fellow employee at Sainsbury's, where she worked as a shelf-filler. When he confronted her and she admitted the affair, Williams said he "lost control".

Gambler stole

Jacqueline Downie, 48, a civilian clerk at Maidstone police station, who stole more than £11,000 from court funds and spent it on a gaming machine in the station canteen, was put on probation by Maidstone Crown Court for two years and ordered to do 100 hours' community service.

Policeman sues

PC James Brown, 45, a police dog handler, who was injured by cattle while on patrol during a royal visit to Catridge Agricultural College, Uphall, Lothian, in June 1989, began an action against the chief constable of Lothian and Borders for £175,000 damages.

Double money

An automatic cash dispenser at Cardiff University delivered £20 instead of £10 notes to students on Monday. The National Westminster Bank denied claims that the machine had given out £80,000 but would not say how much.

Van gets away

Three police officers were injured and seven police cars damaged after a high-speed pursuit of a stolen van from Mitcham, southwest London, to Bromley in Kent. The van was later found abandoned.

Man shot dead

An unidentified young man was found shot dead in the storage yard of Carrington Power Smith metal company at Salicy, Birmingham.

Fraud that costs the motorist millions

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

A LUCRATIVE fraud in MoT test certificates has led to the theft of more than 171,000 forms this year, the Vehicle Inspectorate said last night.

Motoring organisations demanded a change in the way the MoT test is administered and tighter legislation against fraud that could be costing motorists millions of pounds a year.

Garages are sent certificates in pads of 100. A thief needs only to "pocket" a pad which can then be filled in with the details of cars and owners.

Stolen pads have become common currency in many pubs and clubs, where a blank test form can change hands for £50. That is twice the £24 cost of the test fee but much less than many motorists would need to make their vehicles roadworthy. For the thief, the certificate is the passport to offloading a stolen car.

The AA said: "There is no real check to know whether an MoT certificate is valid."

People sell cars with documents which seem authentic but how can the buyer know when there is no central agency to find out?

One possible safeguard would be to replace paper certificates with "smart cards" electronically stamped with the car's registration and MoT details. The Independent Garage Association says the cards, similar to credit cards, could be in use within two years. Equipment to code the cards would cost garages about £200.

The Vehicle Inspectorate has been in talks with HPI, the vehicle information company, to set up a computerised register of all MoT details, available to police, garages and prospective buyers. Paul Leo, managing director of HPI, which has details of 430,000 stolen cars on its computer, said: "It is something that must be done to help prevent the scale of fraud being suffered in this country."

Poignant farewell under the night sky

In his last dispatch from the Pacific, Tim Severin explains why he decided to abandon his epic voyage by bamboo raft

STORM force winds hit us again on November 2. The raft rode the 25ft seas with astonishing calm, though waves were thumping into the sides of the cabins and spraying in through holes in the weave. The worst breakers cascaded clear over the raft. Yet we never doubted that Hsu Fu would survive.

When the storm passed by, and I had another chance to dive under the raft, I found that one in five bumboos in the lowest of the three layers of the main hull was gone. Swimming to the stern, which had previously been sound, I found the same ominous fringe of broken reeds, and several bumboos were miss-

ing. I called a conference. Joe, our doctor, would have liked to finish the trip but not at undue risk. Rex was willing to keep sailing as long as the raft could move forward.

Loi thought the raft might survive another 30 days. Trondur said getting to America was not important for him. What mattered was the voyage. The others agreed, all willing to work their hearts out and keep the raft afloat but would accept my decision. It

was one of the hardest of my life. We had 1,000 miles to go to the coast of California, and had come 5,500 miles. We could probably make it by retying the raft with our homespun cord. But the purpose of our expedition would be lost.

We had set out to travel across the ocean in a vessel made in ancient style with materials available to Chinese sailors 2,000 years ago. To bring to land a raft held together with scraps of nylon

rope was pointless. We had already achieved the longest raft voyage of modern times. Using the little satellite radio, we called for a passing container ship, *California Galaxy*, to take us off.

Looking down from the rail of the great ship, we could see water swirling between the bamboos of the raft's wash-through hull. Her three masts and sails were black against the night sky, and then she was gone, still afloat, still under sail but very weary and headed towards America. It was a poignant farewell, but her crew were safe and we had shared a unique adventure.

Leading article, page 19

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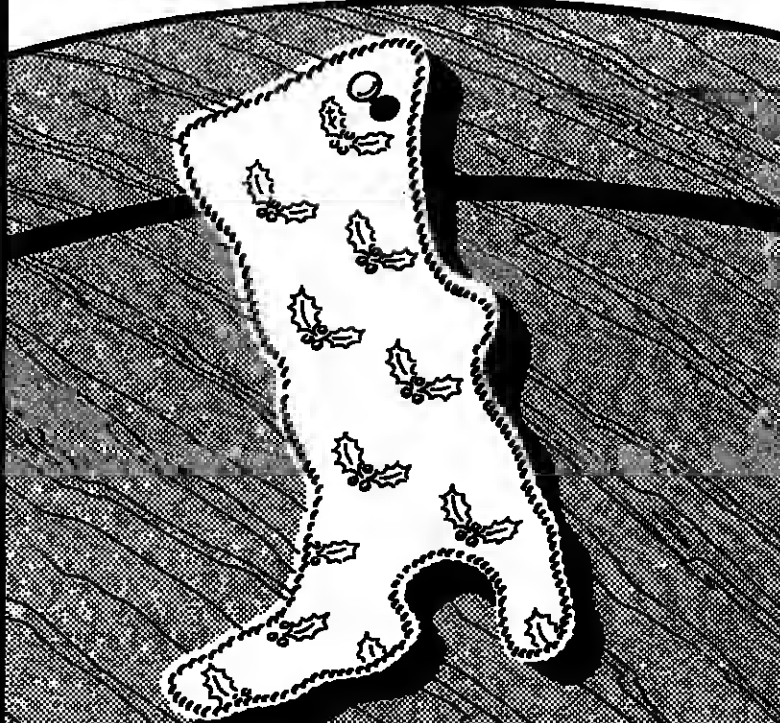
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BELLA PASTA

Motorways bill widens to £6bn

By 2021, half the motorway network will be congested. Building more lanes has cost £1bn and the work is behind schedule

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of the motorway widening programme has increased by 78 per cent in five years. More congestion and inaccurate estimates have pushed the bill to more than £6 billion, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

Widening motorways is more costly and complicated than transport department officials anticipated and the programme is slipping behind schedule, the government spending watchdog said.

The spiralling sums are due to more motorways becoming congested and projects costing considerably more than forecast. An analysis of ten of the 18 completed schemes shows the final cost was an average 103 per cent higher than the original estimate.

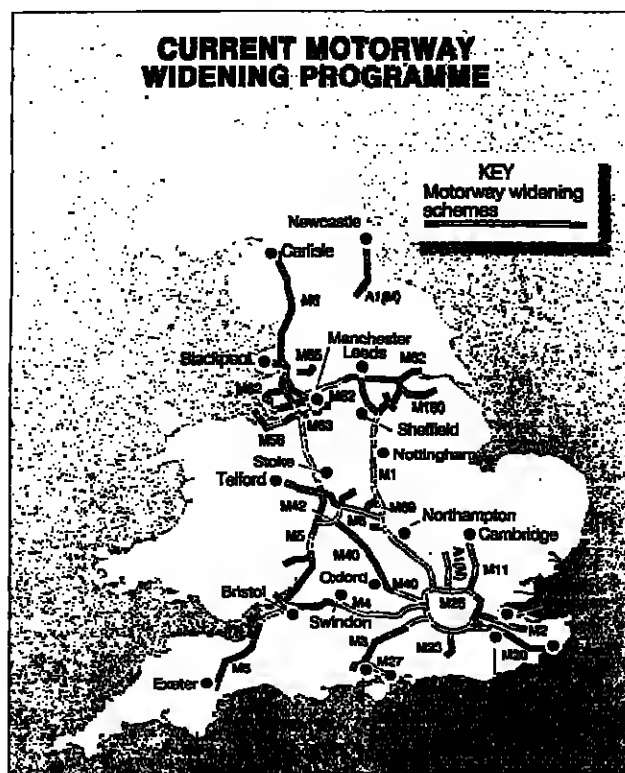
Estimated costs of widening the M2 between Rochester and Chatham in Kent, for example, have increased by more than 300 per cent from £41 million to £141 million. The bill for widening the M20 at Maidstone, Kent, has risen from £19.6 million to £73.5

million, largely to take extra traffic for the Channel tunnel.

Some of the biggest increases stem from plans to transform parts of the M25 into a 14-lane American-style highway. The original estimate for widening the London orbital motorway to eight lanes was £862 million. The government's recent decision to build additional link roads has increased widening costs to £1.175 billion.

The government had originally planned to widen 600 miles of the motorway network's 1,600 miles as part of a ten-year programme to ease congestion on the busiest roads. This has now been increased, owing largely to the decision to increase M25 capacity.

Transport officials had hoped to start on the most congested motorways first. But because of difficulties in obtaining planning permission, some of the less congested motorways have been widened, the report said. Moreover, the government



has admitted that widening will not solve motorway congestion and that many schemes will take much longer than forecast.

In 1988, the transport department calculated 130 miles of motorway were congested. In 1990, it forecast that up to

430 miles would be congested by the end of the decade. By 2021, half the network will be congested, with London, Manchester and Birmingham worst affected.

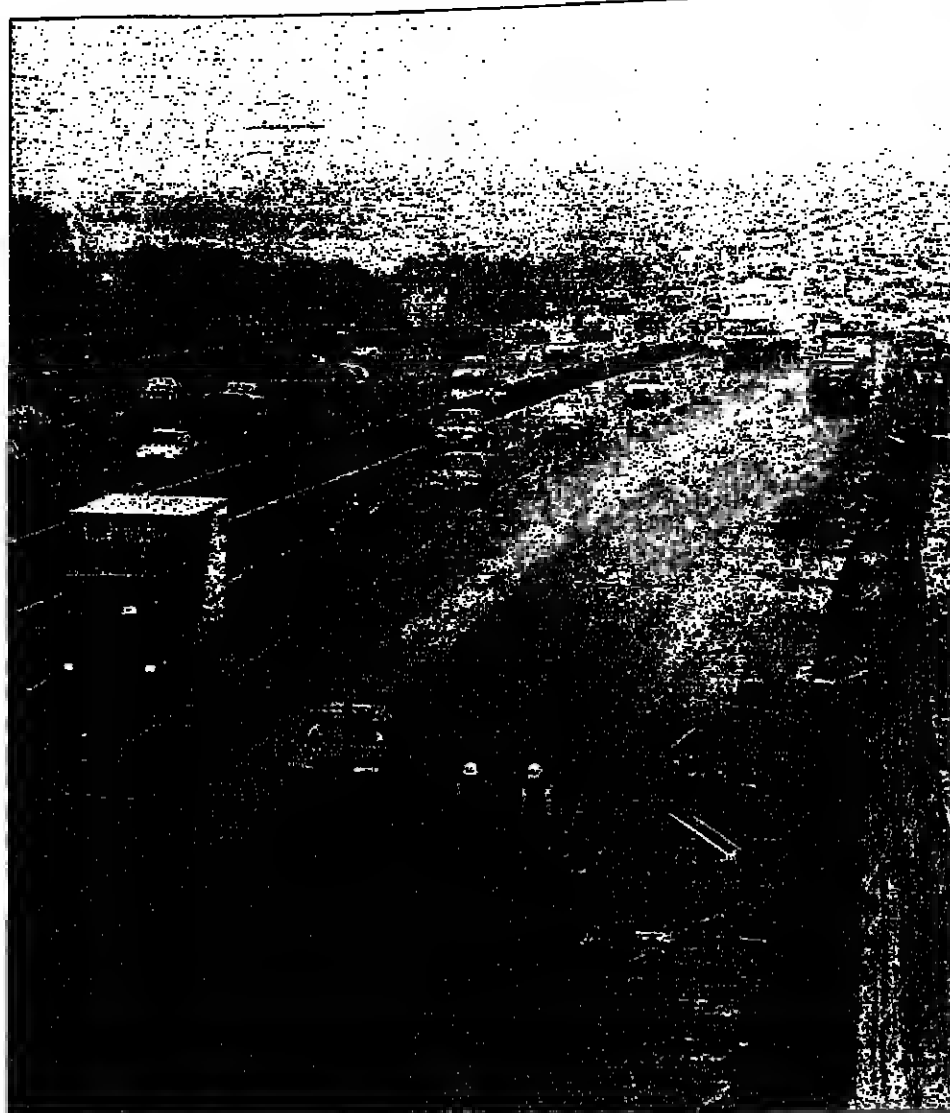
Richard Diment, the director of the British Road Federation, the pro-road lobby, said

that at this rate of progress "it will be well into the next century before we deal with the problems that are here today".

The audit office said that estimates had risen because of changes in the scope and content of work, more complex designs and underestimated traffic growth. Transport officials now recognised the need for more accurate estimates at the start. In addition, earlier widening schemes had taken an average of ten years, but there was growing recognition of the need to reduce delays faced by motorists and road hauliers.

A significant element of costs was buying blighted land and property, according to the audit office. "The transport department estimates that blight will cost some £309 million over the next three years," its report says.

Proposals to widen junctions 3 to 5 of the M20, for example, meant buying 300 properties for £28 million. The widening plans were later curbed. "Most of these properties are not required for the scheme, and the department will for some time be involved in managing and disposing of them." In future, the department plans to make and announce decisions on routes more quickly.



Unceasing traffic roars past widening work in progress on the M25

Living with a monster

BEHIND the double-glazed french windows, the noise is like the distant roar of a waterfall (Tim Jones writes).

Open the doors and a river in flood engulfs you, making the enjoyment of simple pleasures in the garden impossible. When the mist rolls in, the air stinks of traffic fumes.

That is the reality of life for many people in the village of Thorpe, Surrey, who curse the day the M25 was built and then widened to eight lanes.

They now live in dread of the transport department's plans to turn the road outside their homes into a 14-lane "monster", and the thought of

the pollution from another 80,000 vehicles a day thundering past what once was a village set among green fields.

But they claim their battle against the £144 million widening, which would affect the motorway between junctions 12 and 15, could be a road too far for the government.

With a growing number of senior Tory MPs questioning the road-building programme, Eirys Price, chairman of the local protest group Flame, believes the M25 battle could be the turning point — "the Stalingrad of the struggle for more sensible transport and environmental policies".

Free flights winners

THE TIMES Fly Free for Life competition in association with Northwest Airlines and Classic FM resulted in an unprecedented 100,000 entries.

The prize has an estimated value of over £1 million and the winner is Linda Canfield, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire. As overall winner of the competition, Mrs Canfield will receive free executive class flights for herself and a companion for the rest of her life, to any one of the 150 destinations served by Northwest Airlines.

The ten runners-up are: Mr A Ellis, London; Mr C Cutler, Berkshire; Mr M Rooney, Norfolk; Miss L

Mullins, Aberdeenshire; Mrs J Melzer, Hertfordshire; Ms T Miller, Oxford; Mr S Northam, Dyfed; Dr S J Adams, Dorset; Mrs M Mackay, Co Antrim; Mr T Hanford, Middlesex. They will each receive a pair of executive class tickets to the Northwest destination of their choice.

Everyone who entered will receive a Northwest Airlines discount voucher.

The answers to the five questions are:

1. Japan
2. Jamaican Rumba
3. The Florida Suite
4. Symphony No 9 from The New World
5. Australia



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Reader's game

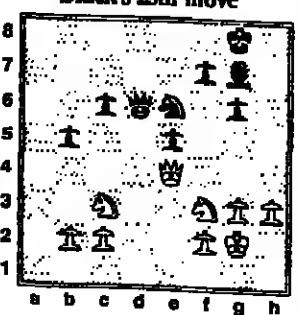
The ultimate in readers' games is the opportunity to play against the world champion. Phil Taylor of Bournemouth was awarded this once-in-a-lifetime chance when he emerged as the overall Predictamove winner at the Savoy Theatre for the games of the championship. In the following game Mr Taylor resists well until move 25 when the champion begins to overwhelm him.

White: Phil Taylor
Black: Garry Kasparov
Blitz Game, Savoy Theatre, London 1993

Pirc Defence

1. e4 g6
2. d4 Bg7
3. Nf3 d5
4. Be2 Nf6
5. Nc3 O-O
6. O-O c5
7. a4 Nbd7
8. Bf4 Qa5
9. h3 e5
10. dxe5 dxe5
11. Be3 Rf8
12. Qe1 Qc7
13. Bc4 Nf6
14. Qe2 Nf8
15. Rf1 Be6
16. Rxd8 Rxd8
17. Rd1 Rxd1+
18. Nxd1 Ne4
19. Bxe6 Nxe6

Diagram after Black's 25th move



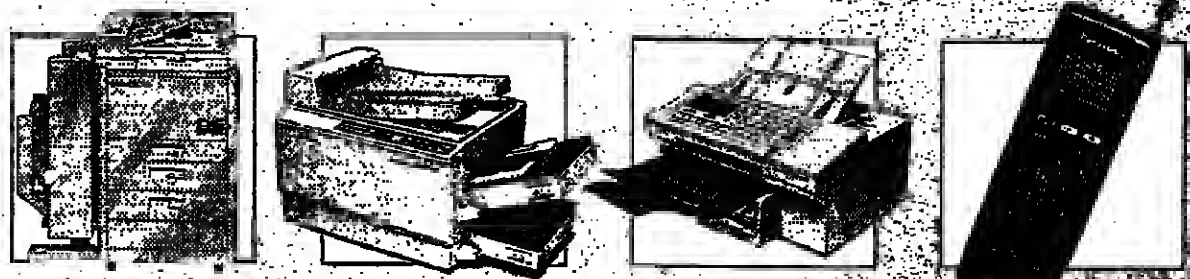
Tilburg pairings

The pairings for the fourth round of the knockout tournament at Tilburg, from which the qualifiers have not yet finally been resolved, are as follows: Karpov v Kaidanov; Bareev v Cvitan; Dreev v Vaganian; Ivanchuk v Epishin; Yusupov v Kamsky; Shirov v Rosenthal; Nikolic v Beliavsky and Morozevich v Georgiev.

Winning Move, page 44

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Independent and grammar schools still dominate the A-level league despite fierce competition

Sixth-form colleges move closer to top performers

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

LEADING sixth-form colleges today outstripped the performance of all but the most selective schools in the first league tables of results for the newly independent further education sector.

So great is the dominance of independent and grammar school sixth forms that only five colleges appear in the top 400 A-level scores and there is none in the top 200. But sixth-form colleges' results compare favourably with those in comprehensive schools, while further education colleges lead the way in providing vocational qualifications.

The top college for A levels is Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, where 357 candidates achieved an average A and AS level points score of 21.4 — the equivalent of two B grades and one C — compared with the national average of 14.7. King Edward's School, an independent boys' school in

TOP OF THE LEAGUE

College	Average points
Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge	21.4
Sir John Deane's College, Northwich, Cheshire	21.0
Woodhouse College, Finchley	19.2
King George V College, Southport	18.1
Shrewsbury Sixth Form College	18.0
York Sixth Form College	17.8
King Edward VI College, Stourbridge	17.7
Notre Dame Sixth Form College, Leeds	17.5
Peter Symonds' College, Winchester	17.2
Wicham Sixth Form College, Cheshire	17.2
Selby College, North Yorkshire	17.2
The Sixth Form College, Colchester	17.2
Alton College, Hampshire	17.2
Cardinal Newman College, Preston	16.8
Winstanley College, Wigan	16.6
City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College	16.5
Huddersfield New College, Kirkstall	16.4
Godsting College, Surrey	16.3
Worthing Sixth Form College, West Sussex	16.3
Greenhead College, Huddersfield	16.3
Rushworth College, Leyland, Lancashire	16.3

Birmingham, registered the best score, at 37.4 points.

Colin Greenhalgh, the principal of Hills Road, said his college and others like it were offering quality and expanding opportunity. The college's A-level entry had doubled in ten years and would rise by another 50 per cent in the next

two years, making comparisons with selective schools unfair.

The colleges with the best pass-rates in vocational qualifications include Bilston Community College, Wolverhampton; Selby College, North Yorkshire; Broxtowe College, Nottingham; and

Shipley College, Bradford. Keith Wymer, the head of Bilston Community College, said: "Most school sixth forms are still elitist. They are creaming off the best students and therefore dominate tables."

Moyle's Court School, in Ringwood, Hampshire, was shown incorrectly in last week's school league tables with six GCSE candidates. In fact, it does not yet have the relevant year group. Oxford High School should have appeared among the schools with maximum pass-rates at GCSE for 1992 and 1993, and King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls, Birmingham, in the top 20 selective state schools at A level.

The education department has issued corrections for Parliament Hill and William Ellis schools, in Camden, north London, both of which averaged 14 points per candidate at A level, and Sir William Ramsay School, Buckinghamshire, which scored an average of 9.1 points.



Pupils at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, which came top in the A-level points table

FURTHER EDUCATION AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE PERFORMANCE TABLES

COLLEGE	Average points No of cands	% of A and AS	% of B and C	% of C and D
LONDON INNER NORTH				
Camden, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, London Corporation, Tower Hamlets and Westminster				
St Charles RC 6FC, Ken & Chelsea	174	12.5	—	—
Kingsway College, Camden	140	12.1	506	80
Islington Federal College	305	10.4	245	75
Hammersmith & West London College	109	9.5	124	81
Tower Hamlets College	87	8.3	65	86
Kensington & Chelsea College	1	8.0	2	0
City of Westminster College	6	7.3	57	80
Hackney Community College	11	4.0	47	81
LONDON OUTER NORTH				
Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest				
Woodhouse College, Finchley	224	19.2	—	—
Greenhill College, Harrow	299	14.1	33	97
St Dunstons 6FC, Harrow	201	13.3	—	—
Havering Sixth Form College	375	13.1	100	100
World College, Harrow	417	12.0	101	88
Havering College of F & HE	194	11.2	389	89
The College of North East London	22	11.0	46	70
Sir G Monoux 6FC, Walthamstow	218	10.8	34	83
Newham Community College	158	10.6	34	82
Elm Park College	159	9.8	69	99
Uxbridge College	122	9.7	100	84
Redbridge College of FE	122	9.5	225	70
Lepton Sixth Form College	141	8.3	170	78
West Thames College, Hounslow	200	8.2	123	69
Southgate College	58	8.0	219	90
Barking College	71	7.9	174	79
Ealing Tertiary College	71	6.7	363	67
Waltham Forest College	64	6.7	78	87
Enfield College	51	6.2	66	88
College of North West London	50	5.6	92	—
Hendon College	86	5.4	63	73
LONDON INNER SOUTH				
Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Wandsworth				
St Francis Xavier 6FC, Wandsworth	193	12.6	19	100
Christ The King 6FC, Lewisham	116	11.4	17	94
South Thames College, Wandsworth	159	7.9	104	76
Woolwich College	90	7.7	42	48
Westminster College	71	6.5	160	65
Southwark College	91	6.4	174	80
Lewisham College	32	5.7	56	54
Lambeth College	52	4.4	74	58
LONDON OUTER SOUTH				
Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Merton, Richmond-upon-Thames and Sutton				
John Ruskin College, Croydon	272	13.8	—	—
Richmond-upon-Thames College	768	13.4	231	80
East Surrey College	121	12.4	49	93
Coulsdon College	191	11.7	—	—
Merton College	87	11.5	214	71
Orpington College of FE	414	10.6	28	86
Merton Sixth Form College	103	10.2	—	—
Croydon College	251	8.8	332	77
Bexley College	66	8.1	133	85
Carshalton College	18	6.3	67	79
Bromley College of F & HE	—	—	186	70
NORTHERN A				
Gateshead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland				
Gateshead College, Sunderland	307	13.2	82	76
Tynemouth College	290	12.5	10	80
Monkwearmouth College, Sunderland	253	12.0	77	92
South Tyneside College	306	10.7	202	85
North Tyneside College	96	8.9	239	81
Newcastle College	124	7.3	450	87
Newcastle College	137	6.1	385	82
Northumberland Coll of A & T, Ashington	37	5.9	214	82
NORTHERN B				
Cleveland and Durham				
Prior Purslove College, Guisborough	228	15.2	—	—
Queen Elizabeth 6FC, Darlington	182	14.5	—	—
Bele College, Billingham	121	14.1	—	—
Sir William Turner 6FC, Redcar	104	13.9	—	—
St Mary's RC College, Middlesbrough	208	13.7	—	—
Stockton Sixth Form College	275	13.5	—	—
Acland Sixth Form College	185	11.6	—	—
Hartlepool Sixth Form College	179	11.5	—	—
Derwentdale College	144	10.7	216	64
Peterlee College	92	8.8	81	93
Merton 6FC, Middlesbrough	60	7.9	129	95
New College Durham	70	7.8	129	95
Longlands CFE, Middlesbrough	39	4.7	126	88
Kirby College of FE	30	3.9	151	94
Stockton & Billingham College of FE	16	3.9	176	85
Hartlepool College of FE	16	3.3	93	67
Furness College	40	3.2	26	100
Blackpool & The Fylde College	15	2.4	230	78
Carlisle College	—	—	—	—
Launceston & Morcombe College	8	5.0	103	71
Furness College	10	4.0	124	81
West Cumbria College	—	—	—	—
Myerscough College, Preston	—	—	—	—
Kendal College	—	—	—	—
Cumbria College of Art & Design	—	—	—	—
NORTH WEST A				
Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan				
Winstanley College, Wigan	462	16.6	—	—
Holy Cross College, Bury	306	15.1	—	—
Aquinas College, Stockport	303	14.1	—	—
Xaverian College, Manchester	434	13.7	—	—
St John Ripley RC 6FC, Wigan	283	13.5	16	88
Eccles College	231	13.5	—	—
The Ridge College, Stockport	343	13.4	25	80
North Bolton Sixth Form College	261	13.2	—	—
De La Salle College, Salford	114	13.2	—	—
Ashton-under-Lyne Sixth Form College	241	13.1	—	—
Bury College	473	12.5	237	69
Hyde-Clarendon College	346	12.4	—	—
Lancaster College, Manchester	264	11.8	—	—
South Bolton Sixth Form College	113	11.8	—	—
Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale	280	11.6	—	—
Stockport College of F & HE	125	11.3	—	—
Wigan & Leigh College	556	11.2	577	77
Shena Simon College, Manchester	208	10.6	—	—
North Area College, Stockport	152	9.5	—	—
Pendleton College, Salford	199	9.4	—	—
South Tameside College	291	8.5	212	71
Oldham College	53	8.1	266	77
Tameside College of Technology	41	7.2	190	84
City College Manchester	21	6.3	95	75
Salford College	5	5.6	126	83
Botolph College	61	5.2	370	80
North Trafford College of FE	16	5.0	109	83
Manchester College of Arts & Technology	38	4.9	60	90
NORTH WEST B				
Cheshire, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral				
Sir John Deane's College, Northwich	325	21.0	—	—
King George V College, Southport	299	19.1	15	93
Widnes Sixth Form College	299	17.3	—	—
Carmel College, St Helens	271	14.6	16	100
Priestley College, Warrington	242	14.6	—	—
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	261	13.9	—	—
South Cheshire College	210	10.6	224	79
Knowsley Community College	71	9.3	78	82
Hugh Baird College, Bootle	206	8.8	155	90
West Cheshire College	167	8.4	222	78
Macclesfield College of FE	88	8.2	102	88
Wirral Metropolitan College	153	6.9	225	64
Southport College	94	6.7	399	61
City of Liverpool Community College	199	6.5	145	88
Wirral College of Technology	30	5.5	123	83
Haltoun College, Widnes	34	4.8	169	63
Mid-Cheshire College of FE	15	4.8	235	84
St Helens College	27	3.2	208	83
N & S YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE				
Barnsley, Doncaster, Huddersfield, North Yorkshire, Rotherham and Sheffield				
York Sixth Form College	352	18.2	—	—
Selby College	143	17.3	245	100
Scarborough Sixth Form College	267	14.9	—	—
John Leggott College, Scarborough	297	14.5	—	—
Thorncliffe College, Rotherham	121	14.3	—	—
Franklin Sixth Form College, Grimsby	241	13.0	—	—
Wilberforce College, Hull	210	12.3	—	—
The Sheffield College	640	11.7	447	83
Barnsley College	321	11.3	322	83
Wyke Sixth Form College	254	10.6	17	100
Grimsby College	47	10.6	125	62
Doncaster College	104	8.3	205	63
Rotherham College of Arts & Technology	61	8.1	213	91
Hull College	94	7.2	447	78
East Yorkshire College of FE	6	7.0	36	92
Harrrogate College of Arts & Technology	68	6.7	224	86
York College of F & HE	15	5.6	234	66
North Lindsey College, Scunthorpe	9	4.7	209	80
Craven College, Skipton	6	4.3	62	82
Yorkshire Coast College of F & HE	6	4.0	76	96
Rotherham College of FE	—	—	—	—
Beverley College of FE	—	—	—	—
Bishop Burton College, Beverley	—	—	—	—
Ashtam Bryan Coll of Agric & Hort, York	—	—	—	—
Rother Valley College	—	—	—	—
WEST YORKSHIRE				
Bradford, Calderdale, Kirkstall, Leeds and Wakefield				
Notre Dame Sixth Form College, Leeds	197	17.8	23	100
Huddersfield New College	313	16.5	—	—
Greenhead College, Huddersfield	234	16.3	—	—
New College Pontefract	300	14.3	—	—
City of Leeds College of Music	4	11.0	4	100
Joseph Priestley College, Leeds	136	9.9	146	88
Park Lane College, Leeds	79	9.8	175	84
Dewsbury College	60	9.6	405	67
Alfred & Whitfield College	21	9.0	126	83
Calderdale College	21	9.0	126	83
Huddersfield Technical College	58	8.1	323	83
Wadsworth College, Huddersfield	166	7.7	277	96
Leeds College of Technology	19	6.9	108	39
Keighley College	13	6.8	61	69
Shipley College	6	5.7	100	80
Leeds College of Art & Design	—	—	—	—
Thomas Danby College, Leeds	—	—	—	—
Leeds College of Building	—	—	—	—
EAST MIDLANDS A				
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire				
Bilborough Sixth Form College	201	15.7	—	—
South East Derbyshire College	318	14.5	121	87
High Pavement 6FC, Nottingham	300	12.8	—	—
Mackworth College, Derby	268	11.4	113	84
South Nottingham College	120	11.0	—	—
Broxtowe College Nottingham	103	9.1	176	80
Clarendon College, Nottingham	106	9.0	160	89
Derby Tertiary College	230	8.5	168	64
North Nottinghamshire College	43	7.8	113	96
Newark & Sherwood College	37	7.8	118	71
High Peak College, Buxton	2	7.0	161	88
Cherwell College	231	6.8	133	88
Arnold & Carlton College, Mappertrey	32	6.8	57	74
Peoples' Coll of Tertiary Ed, Nottingham	87	6.7	208	60
North Derbyshire Tertiary College	73	6.4	199	77
West Nottingham College	12	2.3	212	90
Rastford Hall College, Nottingham	—	—	—	—
EAST MIDLANDS B				
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire				
Lincolnshire College of Art & Design	1	18.0	124	90
Wyggeston & Q&I Coll, Leicester	360	14.1	—	—
EASTERN B				
Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk				
The Sixth Form College, Colchester	707	17.2	—	—
Palmer's College, Grays	360	13.9	—	—
East Norfolk Sixth Form College	191	13.7	—	—
South East Essex Sixth Form College	544	13.6	—	—
North City College of F & HE, Colchester	277	11.1	289	87
Paston 6FC, North Walsham	165	10.4	—	—
Colchester Institute	175	10.3	219	85
North Essex College	180	10.2	—	—
Essex Community College	156	10.2	169	83
Essex Forest College	361	10.1	182	81
South East Essex College of Arts & Tech	110	9.8	398	90
Harlow College	196	9.5	170	81
Great Yarmouth College of FE	110	9.3	45	76
Lowestoft College	48	7.4	116	88
The Norfolk College of Arts & Technology	149	7.1	265	83
Sudbury College	125	6.7	335	72
Burghley College	35	6.3	178	53
West Suffolk College	14	5.9	77	96
Norfolk Institute of Art & Design	—	—	—	—
SOUTH WEST A				
Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset				
The Richard Huish College, Taunton	278	14.8	—	—
St Austell College	361	14.6	402	70
Strode College, Stroud	154	14.4	128	95
Yeovil College	294	14.0	234	79
North Devon College	265	13.7	136	90
Bridgwater College	116	13.5	141	98
East Devon College	97	13.3	91	82
Exeter College	660	12.4	631	65
Penwith College	222	12.4	22	95
Weymouth College	290	12.2	175	87
Somerset College of Arts & Technology	156	11.6	278	81
South Devon College	276	10.7	126	81
Cornwall College	71	9.5	461	80
Weymouth College	394	9.0	333	79
Plymouth College of FE	130	8.4	961	59
Plymouth College of Art & Design	—	—	—	—
Bournemouth & Poole College of Art & Design	—	—	—	—
Bournemouth College	—	—	—	—
Bicton College of Agriculture	—	—	—	—
SOUTH WEST B				
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire				
Cirencester College	194</			

Molyneux diagnosis delays prime minister's efforts to heal the rifts in Ulster

John Major's attempt to break the stalemate in Northern Ireland hit an obstacle yesterday. James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, can never be ignored. His strong warning about the need to reduce "the fever" and allay fears of betrayal produced by the juxtaposition of the London/Dublin initiative, the negotiations on local democracy and the Hume/Adams talks will at least cause Mr Major to pause for breath.

Before Mr Molyneux's speech, Norman Lamont had questioned Mr Major twice on the issue, while Lord Tebbit had asked whether the

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

IRA would only lay down its arms on terms which led to the Unionists taking up arms. So how much should the prime minister now be worried?

In practice, few Tory MPs care much about Northern Ireland, beyond expressing a general wish for an end to the killing and that the IRA should not be rewarded for its outrages.

We are a world away from when Tory leaders came near to fomenting mutiny over Home Rule in the

summer of 1914. It is now 20 years since the Ulster Unionists formally broke their links with the party. Before then, some of the more squibarchical members from the province served in Tory administrations. But the old guard was pushed out of Westminster to be replaced by MPs with deep roots in Unionist politics, with the unique, exotic transplant of Enoch Powell.

The politics of Northern Ireland are seen by most Conservatives as having no relation to the party battles on the mainland. Few Tory MPs have much direct knowledge or family links. Richard Needham

and Brian Mawhinney, who both served as ministers in the Northern Ireland Office, are rare exceptions.

Those who do care about the province, care passionately. But they are a minority, as one strongly pro-Unionist backbencher complained to me recently.

Of the 21 Tories who opposed the Anglo-Irish agreement in a Commons vote eight years ago, only 11 are still in the Commons. But one, Michael Brown, is a whip and another, Michael Morris, is deputy

Speaker — leaving just nine, of whom the most prominent is Nicholas Budge. The assassinations of Airey Neave and Ian Gow have left a big gap. Some newer MPs will have joined them, possibly including a few of the hard core anti-Major/anti-Maastricht rebels.

There are not enough potential rebels to make a difference, especially as any likely settlement supported by the British and Irish governments will also be supported by the Labour party, as the Anglo-Irish Agreement was in 1985.

Mr Major is also not going to be

a Gladstone. There is no serious threat of a repetition of the Liberal Unionist breakaway of 1885-6 over Irish Home Rule, which ensured two decades of Tory dominance.

Talk of a sell-out is premature and misleading. Mr Major, like his predecessors, is an instinctive unionist. Preservation of the union with Scotland was, after all, one of the strongest themes of his election campaign last year.

The prime minister knows that what matters is the politics of the province rather than the politics of the Conservative party. His partic-

ular strength is supposed to be as a negotiator. Any deal rejected by most Unionists will not work.

That is where Mr Molyneux's views are crucial. His is the voice to which Conservative MPs will pay attention. Lord Tebbit's warnings are, in a sense, circular, since any deal which would provoke such a hostile Unionist reaction would not be recommended by Mr Major. The talks will succeed or fail in Belfast, not in Westminster.

PETER RIDDELL

Warning to Major, page 1

Howard pledges to remove obstacles in war on crime

BY ROBERT MORGAN AND ALICE THOMSON

A FOUR-pronged approach to beating the rising tide of crime was outlined by the home secretary last night. Continuing the Commons debate on the Queen's Speech, Michael Howard said that it was necessary to take action "right across the board".

The four key areas, he said, were: prevention, catching criminals, ensuring justice, and giving the courts the powers to pass appropriate sentences.

The measures in the two bills announced last week, the police bill and the criminal justice bill, would help in all four respects, Mr Howard told MPs. The response of the police to his proposals had been encouraging, but he mocked Labour's spokesman, Tony Blair, for failing to respond.

"Finding the policies of the party opposite is as difficult as finding Michael Jackson," he said. "But it will take a good deal longer to detoxify their

polices when and if they are ever found."

The main responsibility for crime detection would always lie with the police, according to Mr Howard. "My job is to sweep away the obstacles which stop the police from getting on with the job of clearing up crimes and arresting criminals," he said.

He emphasised the need for modern equipment and new technology for the police and said that wider DNA profiling would be available.

Nothing sapped police morale and public confidence more than breakdowns in the criminal justice system, Mr Howard said. He promised action to crack down on the widespread abuse of bail. People on bail would be banned from serving on juries and if a jury was nobbled, a retrial would be ordered.

Strongly defending the use of prison sentences, which have been criticised during the summer by leading members

of the judiciary, he said: "Some of those caught and convicted will be sent to prison, not by me, not by the government but by the judges and the magistrates whose task it is to pass the appropriate sentence upon them."

Mr Howard also laid out his plans for young offenders. He pledged to introduce a new secure training order for 12- to 14-year-olds to discipline and educate young offenders and said he intended to raise from 12 months to two years the maximum sentence for detention in a young offenders institution.

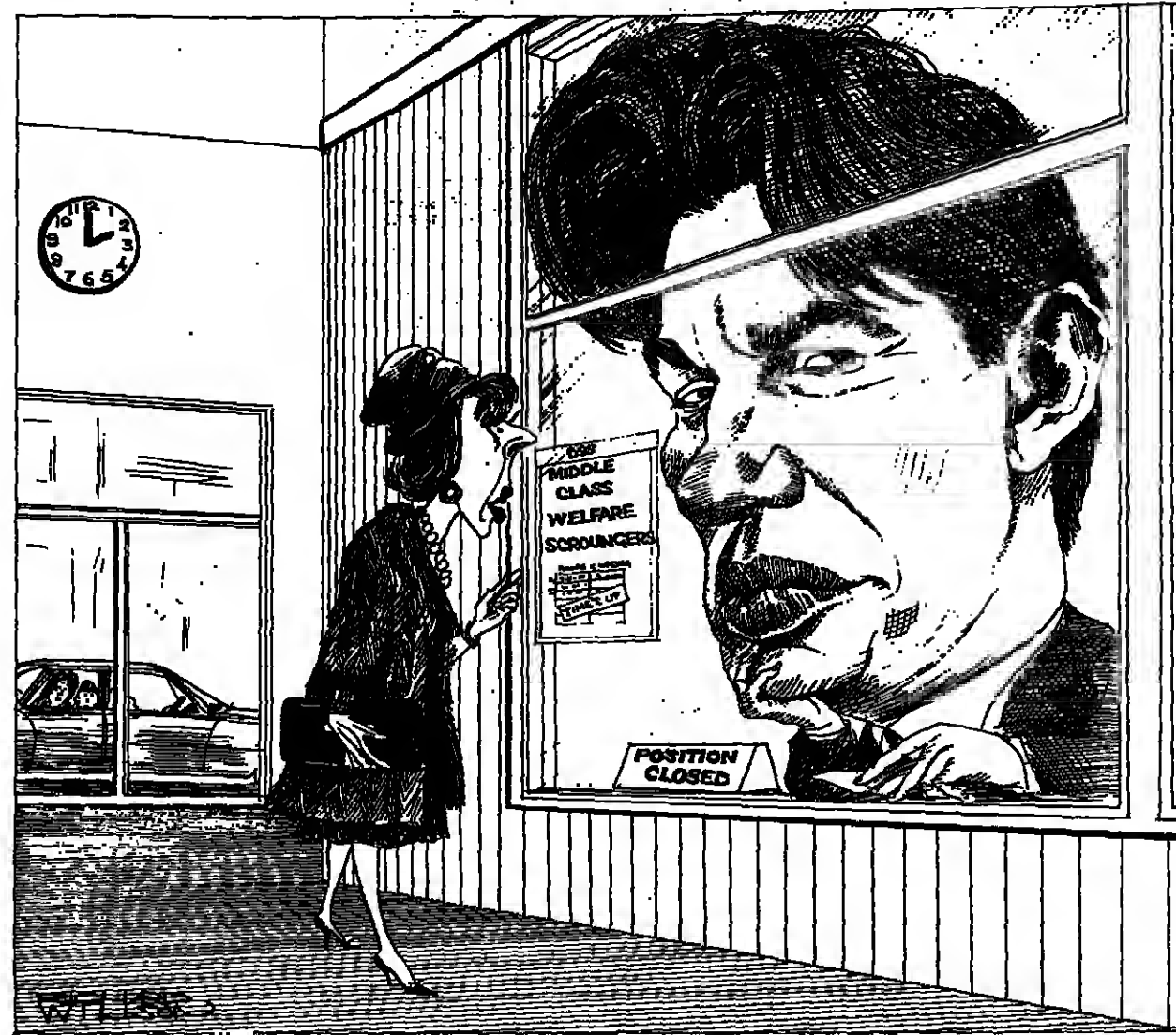
The shadow home secretary only had one sound bite — "Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" — and he sounded like a cracked record, Mr Howard said.

Mr Blair immediately criticised the home secretary, saying: "We have had 14 years of Conservative promises of effective action, 14 years of tough rhetoric, 14 years of claiming they would put their victim back at the heart of their concern, 14 years of new laws, 14 years of talks, 14 years of failure. That is the record on which the government now stands."

The shadow home secretary said that Mr Howard was obsessed by prisons and saw them as his solution to everything, but it was just as important to look at how criminals conducted themselves after they left prison and to why they were there in the first place.

"It is not that all the measures he advocated are wrong," he said. "But he only pays lip service to crime prevention." When pushed, he agreed that he was not against the building of new prisons.

Mr Blair also emphasised that it would be dangerous to abolish right to silence at police stations.



Portillo sets sights on child benefit

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the key areas which Michael Portillo's long-term review of social security will focus on is child benefit, a universal payment now costing the taxpayer nearly £6 billion.

With the £80 billion social security bill set to rise by 3 per cent a year just to meet statutory commitments and demographic growth, many backbenchers argue that the government can no longer afford paying child benefit to nearly seven million families, irrespective of their income.

There are unlikely to be changes in next week's Budget because of a manifesto commitment to pay the benefit.

■ While child benefit is likely to escape in the short term, it is clearly part of the plan to cut social security spending

However, Mr Portillo is now paving the way for taxing, means testing or abolishing the payment in the next parliament. At present all families receive £10 a week for the eldest child and £8.10p a week for subsequent children.

According to reports leaked from the social security department, officials are examining the case for "withholding, reducing or otherwise limiting the non-contributory, non-means-tested benefits received by people with incomes or capital above specified levels". They have been asked to discuss "the financial, operational, legislative and other implications of alternative options for limiting the payments to those on higher incomes, including taxation".

Although it is arguable that taxing child benefit would not break the manifesto commitment, it is not considered a runner in this parliament. Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, points out that taxing child benefit is no longer practical now that couples are taxed independently. If the payment goes to the mother,



as now, many women would receive the benefit even if their husbands were on high salaries. If the father gets the payment there would be no guarantee that it would pass to the mother. Mr Lilley favours means testing as it would tie in with his proposals for better targeting of benefits.

Poverty groups argue that some needy mothers would fail to claim the benefit if it was means tested. Family credit, which is given to low-income working families, only has a 65 per cent take-up. Child benefit has always

been a contentious issue. It sits oddly with a government intention to curb public spending, but is still considered one of the cornerstones of Tory welfare policy.

The Conservatives did try to erode the value of child benefit by freezing it at £7.25 for all children in 1987. The argument then was that help should be concentrated on the poorest families through family credit. In his memoirs Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, claims that this was always the Treasury view but the social security department only accepted it in 1987 when John Major was in charge.

John Major, the then chief secretary to the Treasury, was keen to consolidate the principle, with a further freeze on child benefit the following year. This time Mr Moore opposed the scheme and threatened resignation. The freeze went ahead and was only lifted when Mr Major became prime minister.

Other prescriptions have been offered by MPs and social policy analysts. One option is a higher rate of child benefit for the under-fives. Another is to introduce a child tax allowance or family tax allowance, although this is not said to be favoured by Mr Portillo or Mr Lilley.

Tomorrow: Pensions

Britain to oppose increased time off for parents

FROM JAMES LANDALE
IN BRUSSELS

PLANS by the European Community to increase the rights of parents to time off work came under attack yesterday as Britain argued that the proposals would be too costly for employers.

Under proposed EC legislation, mothers would have the right to three months' post-natal leave, both parents the right to a further three months' leave and unspecified time off for "pressing family needs". British law currently allows mothers 40 weeks of unpaid leave after a birth.

David Hunt, the employment secretary, said: "We do not believe that a directive of this nature is justified on grounds of subsidiarity, or on grounds of proven need, and we do not believe it is justified on grounds that it would impose additional burdens on business."

Speaking during a meeting of social affairs ministers in Brussels, Mr Hunt added: "At a time when unemployment [in Europe] is rising to up to 18 million and beyond, we should be talking about measures to tackle this, and not further rights which will extend further burdens on employers."

He said that 40 weeks' leave for mothers was one of the most generous provisions in the Community.

Britain is seeking to draw up the directive in such a way that its existing law need not be changed, while other member states can introduce new laws if they want. Yesterday Luxembourg and Denmark also opposed the directive and ministers failed to reach any agreement on the text.

Britain also reaffirmed its intention to fight EC legislation limiting working time to 48 hours a week by taking the plans to the European Court of Justice. The working hours directive, which also provides for a minimum 11-hour daily rest period and at least one day's rest a week, was formally adopted yesterday.

The directive was drawn up under the guise of health and safety at work, which only requires majority voting, and thus side-stepped the British veto. Britain claims this was illegal under EC law.

Mr Hunt said: "The idea of telling two and a half million people that they are no longer allowed to work the hours they want is not something that I am prepared to sign up to."

Civil servants warned jobs are on the line

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR civil servants who "can't or won't" get on with their ministers should be removed from office, Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary and head of the home Civil Service, said yesterday.

Asked by the all-party Treasury and Civil Service select committee whether it was possible to safeguard the position of senior civil servants who failed to get on with their minister, Sir Robin said: "That's a good reason to get rid of them." An attempt would be made to find them a position elsewhere.

Sir Robin was giving evi-

dence on the changes in the Civil Service brought about by the government's public service reform programme, including the creation of Next Steps agencies and the market-testing of Civil Service spending. Rejecting allegations that he was presiding over the destruction of the Civil Service, Sir Robin said he thought it was right that civil servants should be subject to more competition, and that large parts of government's administrative machine could be privatised.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

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Civilian defence staff reductions 'too slow'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN urgent review of cuts in the Britain's civilian defence staff was demanded by MPs yesterday. A report by the Commons defence select committee claimed that reductions in the defence ministry's 155,800 civilian manpower, were substantially slower than in the armed forces.

They expressed concern that the number of senior Army and RAF officers was not falling at the expected rate. The cross-party Commons defence committee rushed out an interim report on the pace of manpower cuts in advance of next Tuesday's Budget. "We have serious doubts as to whether MoD will be able to meet its broad commitment to make 20 per cent reductions in MoD civilian numbers by 1995-6," it said. "MoD's hands-off policy seems to be resulting in the preservation of an unaffordable civilian-manned infrastructure."

Most recent reductions in civilians are due to cuts in locally employed personnel in Germany and the transfer of 7,000 civilians to the private sector following the privatisation of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Alderma-

ston. The number of non-industrial civilians could even rise over the next year because of the strategy of putting civilians in service posts.

The number of civilians employed in the UK by the MoD in 1992-3 was 2,350 more than planned, overtime has virtually doubled and the number of casual employees has risen substantially. The number of executive, clerical and secretarial grades is virtually untouched at just over 40,000.

"Although there have been some reductions in United Kingdom based civilian numbers, the rate of decline is now substantially slower than in the services, is not centrally managed, and may even be reversed," the committee said.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: trade and industry. Continuation of debate on Queen's Speech (trade, industry and deregulation). Lords (2.30): Continuation of debate on Queen's Speech (local government, education and training).

BANK OF SCOTLAND BASE RATE

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Tuesday 23rd November 1993 its Base Rate has been decreased from 6.00% per annum to 5.50% per annum.

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Major steps into steel subsidy row with Bonn

The prime minister and Helmut Kohl will find it hard to flaunt their aversion to state aid while EC finance for an east German firm continues to divide them

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN and Germany are embroiled in a fierce row over subsidies on the eve of talks here between John Major and several cabinet ministers.

The dispute is about steel. The German chancellor has taken the unusual step of calling in Sir Nigel Broomfield, the British ambassador, to complain about Britain blocking European Commission approval of subsidies to the beleaguered east German Ekostahl company. Most of the German anger seems to be emanating from the economics ministry rather than the office of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. Günther Rexrodt, the minister, was said yesterday to be "absolutely furious" about the British position.

The row is embarrassing because the chief binding element in relations between Britain and Germany is their mutual commitment to free trade and an aversion to subsidies. This sets them apart from France on the difficult General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade deal as well as on a range of internal European issues. The alignment was supposed to be underlined tomorrow at a summit between the prime minister and the chancellor.

The showdown came at the industry ministers' session on November 18 when Britain, backed by France, Luxembourg and Denmark, refused to make a decision on the Ekostahl project. British officials say that the European Commission proposals on the east German company were circulated only two days before the session and Britain did not want to be stamped into a commitment.

The doubts may run some-

what deeper than that. An DM800 million (£320 million) subsidy accompanied by expansion, rather than reduction, of capacity goes against the whole belt-tightening philosophy of the European steel sector. Even Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner, and west German steel companies have expressed scepticism about Ekostahl. But Herr Rexrodt is determined to show that Bonn is ready to fight for east German jobs. This prompted the unusual summons of the ambassador last Friday.

The German idea is that 60 per cent of Ekostahl will be sold to the private Italian Riva group and that subsidies will be used to make the company more competitive. A modern warm-rolled steel mill is planned because the east Germans are at present having to transport their steel across Germany to the Ruhr for rolling, adding DM70 a tonne to costs.

In the chancellor's session with the ambassador, a senior German official expressed Bonn's "dismay" at the British position. In private, however, much stronger terms are being used. The Germans had been convinced that they had British agreement for the subsidy deal. Their dreams crumbled only on the evening before the industry ministers' meeting.

Economic officials in Bonn point to the many millions of pounds of subsidies granted to British Steel in the early 1980s. The British, slightly taken aback by the ferocity of the attack, are not ruling out agreement at the next meeting of industry ministers scheduled for December 17.

Transatlantic trade teams make a meal of Gatt differences

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN and American trade negotiators were struggling yesterday to settle the remaining differences between them in the run-up to a world trade deal, including a protracted disagreement over whether to reopen last year's Blair House agreement on agricultural subsidies.

With 22 days to go until the deadline for a world trade accord, Sir Leon Brittan, the European trade commissioner, who arrived here with a dozen negotiators, held critical talks with his American counterpart, Mickey Kantor.

The two men held a long meeting over dinner at a Washington restaurant on Monday night, before resuming their discussions yesterday.

During the last weekend of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum in Seattle, Mr Kantor categorically refused to change the Blair House agreement, a sentiment also reflected by several Asian delegations. Speaking in Seattle during the Apec summit, Mr Kantor declared: "I think the French will find themselves isolated in the world. We're not going to reopen the Blair House agreement."

France wants some changes to the accord to make it less harsh on its small farmers. At the Apec summit, Asian participants rallied behind the American position, causing anger among the Europeans. Speaking before last weekend's meeting, a senior European official said that the United States strategy during the summit amounted to a fait accompli on the part of America, to foil European attempts to seek specific alterations to the agreement. These changes related to the

details of how the 21 per cent reduction in export subsidies is to be phased in over a period of six years.

"The disturbing thing is the way that the whole Apec meeting has been constructed with an anti-European bias," the official said.

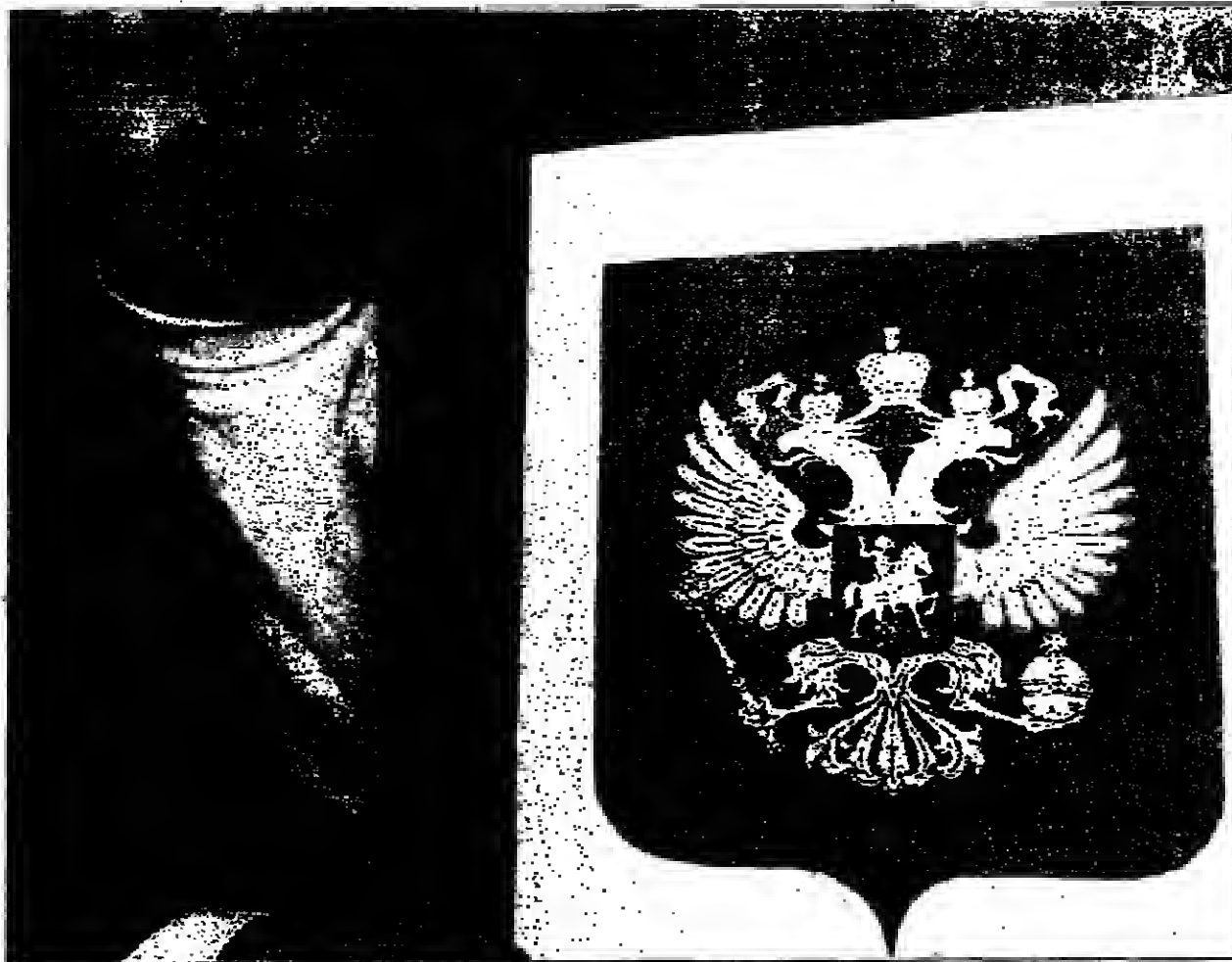
Bolstered by recent successes in its trade policy, notably the congressional passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), the Clinton administration is brimming with renewed confidence on a whole range of policies. On the issue of the Blair House agreement, the American position appears to have hardened. In addition to

the intractable problem of the Blair House accord, the two trade representatives will discuss a series of other issues during their two days of talks, including market access for industrial goods, textiles, steel and the question of import barriers on American films, an issue of particular importance to France. Apart from the continuing dispute over subsidies, the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which faces a December 15 deadline, is also deadlocked over Japan's continued refusal to open its rice market to competition, and an accord on textiles.

Chances of an international agreement on textiles worsened because of Nafta, after Mr Clinton made a promise to some congressmen to extend the phase-out from ten years to 15 years of the Multi-Fibre Agreement. That accord protects the West's textile industry against cheap imports. President Clinton's promise to Congress has been severely criticised by Asian textile-producing nations.



Kantor: predicting isolation of French



Natalia Krivova, a member of the commission designing a state coat of arms for Russia, displaying the possible final choice in Moscow yesterday. The two-headed eagle, with St George killing the dragon, is virtually a replica of the emblem used during the tsarist era. President Yeltsin is expected to approve the design soon

Russians turned off by televised party broadcasts

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN ST PETERSBURG

AS RUSSIA'S parliamentary election campaign enters its third day, all the political blocs are facing an uphill struggle against considerable public indifference.

Only a minority of ordinary Russians seem to have watched the first party political broadcast on Monday night, and most can still not tell the difference between the candidates.

The first party to broadcast will hardly have increased public interest. The centrist Civic Union, representing parts of the old Soviet state's managerial class, delivered a Soviet-style programme, with three besuited officials reading for 30 minutes a list of facts and figures to prove their case against radical economic reform.

The hardline opposition Communist Party predictably delivered a more hard-hitting message. "We're told that we are building capitalism like that in Sweden, but it is turning out to be like Colombia, and may soon be Bangladesh," said Gennadi

Zyuganov, the Communist leader.

Surprisingly, the most professional broadcast was by the Greens, or Constructive Ecology Movement, whose initials in Russian spell "Cedar". Adopting a Western style, the Green leaders delivered short, pithy, soundbites in informal settings, mixed with contrasting images of decaying Soviet industrial sites and unspoiled Russian countryside.

Russians will now be exposed to party propaganda on television at the same time each evening until December 8, four days before the elections. The leading reformist party, Russia's Choice, which is probably the best funded of all the blocs, is to broadcast later this week.

More than 100 international observers have already arrived to monitor the campaign. According to the central electoral commission, more than 1,000 are expected. Media consultants, including some from Britain, are also advising the reformist parties on their propaganda.



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†The actual form of the offer worth £50 is at the discretion of the Service Provider and Stockist. They will offer no alternative to their stated offer.

Left rallies to save Ciampi's budget as centre wavers

By JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CARLO Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister, strove yesterday to maintain his hold on power and ensure passage of the 1994 budget following the weekend local elections which turned national politics upside down.

Amid reports that the main government party, the Christian Democrats, were discussing the possibility of withdrawing their support in the wake of the election debacle, Signor Ciampi received unexpected backing from the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and the separatist Lombardy League, riding high in the north.

As the lira sank to a record low against the German mark, Signor Ciampi summoned an emergency meeting of the main parties in parliament and issued a statement saying that most deputies backed his policy of price and monetary stability.

However, the government's fate still appeared uncertain. "An appropriate solution now would be an immediate government crisis and the formation of a new cabinet to approve the 1994 budget," Romeo Ricciuti, a Christian Democrat member of the Chamber of Deputies key budget committee, said.

Mino Martinazzoli, the Christian Democrat secretary, issued a statement strongly denying that the party planned to pull its ministers out of the Ciampi government. "Rumours that speak of Christian Democrat ministers abandoning their commitment to the government are completely without foundation," he said.

But market jitters continued, sending share prices plunging on the stock exchange, as political analysts questioned whether Signor Martinazzoli remains in control of his party following its humiliation at the hands of the PDS, the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) and

■ With the Christian Democrats reeling from their calamitous defeat in mayoral polls, the party secretary has denied that they will withdraw support from the prime minister

the Lombardy League. The centrist parties that have dominated Italian politics since the war were devastated. Signor Ciampi's other coalition members, the Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats, have been buried under the weight of corruption accusations and are virtually extinct.

Before the Christian Democrats denied plans to abandon Signor Ciampi, the lira sank to 1005.25 against the German

Jews appeal

Rome. Roman Jews yesterday asked Catholic leaders to urge their flock to vote against Gianfranco Fini, leader of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, in the run-off for mayor on December 5. "Whether or not Fini becomes mayor of Rome depends on Catholics, not Jews," said Victor Magiar, a Jewish candidate for the city council. "They will decide." There are only 15,000 Jews among Rome's predominantly Catholic population of three million. (Reuters)

mark, moving through the psychologically important 1,000 barrier for the first time since the crisis last April that ended with the appointment of Signor Ciampi as prime minister.

Achille Occhetto, head of the PDS, issued a strong statement aimed at reassuring worried investors about Italy's political and economic prospects. "We are committed to guaranteeing approval of the budget by its scheduled deadline [at the end of next month]," Signor Occhetto said. He added that the turmoil on financial markets after the polls was completely

unjustified.

Signor Ciampi, 72, a former central banker, has insisted that the budget, which includes 31,000 billion lire (£13.25 billion) in savings, must be passed before Italy's scandal-tainted parliament can be dissolved and new elections called.

Roberto Maroni, the Lombardy League's chief whip in the lower house of parliament, said he was certain that the budget would be approved before the end of the year and promised his party would not hinder its passage in any way. A defeat in parliament for the budget would inevitably bring down the government, plunging Italy into deeper crisis.

State radio reported that some Christian Democrat deputies wanted to vote against the package of highly unpopular spending cuts. Others wanted the party to pull out of the government immediately, but support Signor Ciampi on the budget, the radio said.

Little was being heard from the neo-fascists, but Gianfranco Fini, the head of the MSI, had his prospects for winning the Rome mayoral race in a run-off on December 5 boosted by support from an influential figure. Silvio Berlusconi, the powerful media magnate who controls three private television channels, announced that he supported the MSI leader.

"If I were in Rome, I would vote for Fini," Signor Berlusconi said. "I would not have a second's hesitation because he is the candidate who groups the moderate area that is united and can guarantee a future for the country."

He added: "If the centre does not join forces, the destiny of this country will be to be governed by a 40 per cent that does not represent the new."



Swiss police arriving on the roof of a Zurich house yesterday to evict squatters. Officers smashed up the interior after the 100 illegal inhabitants rejected an offer from owners Ordikon-Bühle, an arms-to-fashion firm, of other accommodation

Israel tells of Munich vengeance

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MOSSAD, Israel's main intelligence agency, systematically hunted down and killed all the Palestinians responsible for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, General Aharon Yariv, the architect of the hit team, admitted on television last night.

He justified the policy that wiped out much of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's military and political leadership in the 1970s. "I approach it from a cost-benefit point of view," he said. "Is it morally acceptable? That's debatable. Is it politically vital? It was."

One of the key figures killed by the Israelis was Ali Hassan Salameh, a senior figure in the PLO and the alleged mastermind of the 1972 massacre. A BBC documentary, *States of Terror*, being broadcast tonight, said that despite his notoriety, the CIA tried to recruit him. "We deal with all sorts of people," Chuck Cogan, a former CIA official, said.

The interview with General Yariv was recorded a year ago, but was delayed because of military censorship; it was shown for the first time in Israel on Monday. General Yariv this year suffered a serious car crash and is still in hospital.

In the documentary, he said that Mossad used all kinds of ways to kill the Palestinians, including booby-trapping cars. The first person assassinated was Wael Zwaiter, who was gunned down in the courtyard of his Rome flat six weeks after the Games. A well-known writer, he was the PLO's representative in the city.

The second victim was Mahmoud Hamshari, the PLO representative in Paris, although the Israelis had no direct evidence linking him with Munich. Altogether another eight people were killed. But Mossad caused a political scandal in Norway when it shot the wrong man in Lillehammer, thinking it

was Mr Salameh. Six Mossad agents were arrested and five sent to jail. General Yariv admitted that the affair had been "very embarrassing".

He said Mr Salameh's secret relationship with the CIA began after contacts in Beirut, and lasted almost ten years. Mr Cogan said in the film that it was thought desirable to have a contact with the PLO so that America could be warned of any possible terrorist action against the embassy.

□ New York: The United Nations issued a warning yesterday that the marsh Arabs in southern Iraq were "on the verge of disappearing" because of persecution by Baghdad. Max van der Stoep, the former Dutch foreign minister who now serves as a special rapporteur for the UN Human Rights Commission, said the Iraqi government was continuing to bombard the Shia population and had drained 40 per cent of the marshes.

Britain to sign Uzbek gold deal

By MICHAEL BINYON

BARRING any last-minute haggling, a British multinational will today sign the largest contract ever concluded to exploit the gold reserves of a former Soviet republic.

After Downing Street talks with John Major, President Karimov of Uzbekistan will sign a deal with Lonrho for the exploration and mining of gold in the Central Asian republic. No figures have been announced, but Lonrho is hoping to play a key role in developing new mines and repatriating the profits.

Yesterday Mr Karimov, visiting Britain for three days of talks to encourage closer business and political links, deposited a substantial amount of gold in Rothschild's bank as guarantees against British investors losing money.

President Karimov, a former Communist who pours scorn on what he calls premature steps towards multiparty democracy, will have an audience with the Queen today, as well as discussions with Mr Major on investment, development and the turbulence in the Islamic former Soviet republics. He will sign agreements on air services, economic co-operation and investment.

Mr Major is expected to refer obliquely to British concern at the authoritarian nature of Mr Karimov's government, which has clamped down on political opponents. Jewish groups have asked Mr Major to raise the case of a Jewish dissident still serving a 15-year sentence handed down by the Soviet authorities.

During his visit, Mr Karimov will meet the Confederation of British Industry and talk to cotton industry representatives. Uzbekistan, one of the world's largest cotton producers, is keen to diversify its economy.

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● The offer is subject to the terms and conditions published in *The Times* on November 18.

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DESERT AND DELTA IVORY TRAIL: This eight-day winged safari takes you on a journey along the routes of the bounty hunters of old. The journey begins at the magnificent Victoria Falls on the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe and ends at Maun in Botswana. Departs 4 April, 11 April, 18 April, 25 April, 1994. £1,516 (down from £1,895). Save £379.

SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA: This 18-day tour covers the whole spectrum of South African opportunities. Travelling from the Eastern Transvaal and The Kruger National Park, continue through Zululand and Durban and then along the Garden Route and into Cape Town. Departs 7 May, 14 May, 11 June, 23 July, 13 August, 1994. £2,996 (down from £2,995). Save £99.

CLASSIC KENYA: A nine-day safari in Kenya, which still provides some of the best game-viewing opportunities in the world. The trip takes guests to Samburu, Treetops, Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara. Departs 4 January, 11 January, 18 January, 25 January, 1994. £2,996 (down from £2,995). Save £99.

African adventure

In Zimbabwe enjoy
the well practised
upmarket tourism
and rude animals

Zimbabwe, unlike large swathes of the rest of black Africa, passes the gin test. In a neighbouring country not long ago, we descended on the premier hotel in the capital city and ordered gin and tonic. The nearest they could offer was South African cane spirit and a bottle of soda water. The ice, had they had any, we thought best avoided.

Zimbabwe by contrast was refreshingly civilised — at least from a visitor's point of view. In a quite modest hotel down among the avenues of blue-blossomed jacaranda trees planted by the British colonialists along the thoroughfares of Harare, the capital, we found the gin to be Gordon's, the tonic Schweppes, and the ice perfectly safe to suck.

We therefore awarded President Robert Mugabe top marks for shepherding his nation from illegal white minority rule to full independence without in the process destroying all that was good about it, as has happened so often elsewhere with tragic consequences.

Zimbabwe is well practised in upmarket tourism, thanks largely to years of catering for white South Africans; currency restrictions dictate that their northern neighbour is one of

the few countries where they can spend their holiday rands in any quantity, without using up their full allowance on an air fare.

Harare still feels as though it were Salisbury. It is an elegant capital sparsely laid out with excellent shopping, and where most things work as they should. But you do not, as a rule, go to Zimbabwe for the shopping; you go for the elephants.

The country has more than it knows what to do with. Local farmers do not have the romantic vision of the creature that far-away do-gooders like Eleftherios possess; it bulldozes fences and tramples crops.

But in the national parks and game reserves, the elephants live in peace; families of them by the hundred making their stately progress across the savannah, or bathing themselves in dust to damp down the flies. And

there is no better place to see them than from the Burni Hills Safari Lodge, high above the shores of Lake Kariba close to the Zambian border, where the Zambezi is dammed in its progress to Victoria Falls.

We came across a family at dusk just outside the lodge entrance, and had to stand frozen to immobility in our open Land Rover while they crossed the road in front of us. Junior, in the throes of temperamental adolescence, trumpeted at us quite a lot, and made vaguely threatening gestures from behind a tree, until his mother prodded him with a matronly trunk and ordered him to stop behaving like a moody Italian teenager.

At the safari lodge, a corral of individual chalets on a hillside surrounding a swimming pool, sun terrace and excellent dining room, the manager cautioned all his guests. "Be careful walking to your chalet in the dark: the animals wander in here as though they owned the place." We were grateful not to encounter a trespassing water buffalo, which can display the worst temper in the best of hotels, and which probably cannot tell cane spirit from Gordon's.

ALAN HAMILTON

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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Q: How do I pay for my holiday(s) cost?
A: You must pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance due for your holiday(s) 10 weeks prior to departure. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens.

Q: Is it possible to book my holiday(s) before I collect all ten tokens?
A: You must collect all ten tokens and fill in the relevant operator's booking form with

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A: Bookings can be made when you have your ten tokens and relevant booking form. You must book your holiday(s) by February 20, 1994.

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A: It applies to the specific departure date and tour offered by the operator. Any number of people booking together on one booking form, together with ten tokens attached, can take part in the offer. It includes any other supplements, including single room supplements, any other holiday, insurance, car hire (except where car hire is part of the specific tour offered by the operator), special

excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.

Q: What happens if I miss or lose a token?
A: We will be publishing a total of 21 tokens and backdated copies will be accepted (though photocopies will not be accepted). So you should be able to catch up.

Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?
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Q: Are the operators bonded?
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators insolvency.

UN workers attack teddy-bear air drops

Deal with Bosnia leaders fails to get aid through

By JOEL BRAND in SARAJEVO AND ADAM LEBOR

DESPERATELY needed aid convoys were again delayed yesterday in spite of an earlier agreement by leaders of Bosnia's warring parties. Relief officials nevertheless remained optimistic that the convoys loaded with food and medicine would begin getting through today.

The delays come after the much-praised agreement signed in Geneva last Friday by the three sides in the conflict to allow free passage through the war zone for aid convoys. European Union foreign ministers this week decided to back the use of force to keep the aid routes open.

European ministers also agreed to offer a "progressive" suspension of sanctions against Yugoslavia if the Bosnian Serbs return more land captured during the war to the Muslim-led Bosnian government. The ministers' decision received a cautious response from Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, who said the United States was reluctant to see any "premature" lifting of sanctions.

"We'll have to see the circumstances under which sanctions might be lifted or suspended. We've always said that if there was a settlement that was being implemented then discussions [on that] could begin," Mr Christopher said in London in advance of further talks between EU foreign ministers in Geneva next Monday.

The Secretary of State added that America would not put troops into Bosnia until there was peace there. "I have been quite forthright about this. On Bosnia we do not have sufficient strategic interests to justify placing several hundred thousand troops on the ground," he insisted.

The repeated American refusal to commit troops to the aid effort can only weaken Monday's European declaration and will do little to help the safe passage of convoys in Bosnia.

The biggest blow to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees aid operation in Bosnia came yesterday from the authorities in the rump Yugoslavia. Just as four convoys were set to roll for the beleaguered communities of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Gorazde and Zepa, Yugoslav customs officials instituted a surprise regulation effectively halting aid travelling from the UNHCR's Belgrade warehouses into Bosnia.

The move was one of several



Alena Bajrovic, four, who has a broken arm and leg, is comforted by her mother before being flown out of Sarajevo yesterday to have treatment abroad

the Serbian authorities have taken that appear deliberately to complicate UNHCR efforts to bring aid to the hungry populations in Bosnia. Those hungry communities are usually mainly made up of Muslims who are besieged or under attack by Bosnian Serbs.

By denying the communities food, medicine and utilities, and harassing foreign agencies who attempt to deliver emergency relief supplies, Bosnian Serbs and Croats are increasing the pressure on the Bosnian government to capitulate. The rebels want the Bosnian government to sanction the partition of the republic along ethnic lines, which would effectively legitimise territorial spoils of "ethnic cleansing" and set the stage for the lifting of the UN economic blockade in force against Serbia.

"Nothing is moving and this is a source of great frustration for us," said Lyndall Sachs, the Belgrade spokeswoman for the UNHCR. "It seems to indicate the lack of commitment of some of the parties to stick to the pledges they gave in Geneva," she said. "Until we get clearance, no convoys can run. Once again it is the civilian population that is made to suffer."

Late yesterday the UNHCR reached a temporary agreement with the Yugoslav customs authorities to allow convoys to pass into Bosnia. UN officials said they would try again today to get the aid through and the four convoys, carrying 250 tons of food and medicines for the four towns, appear to have clearance to move this morning.

A fifth UNHCR convoy, coming from Zagreb, the Croatian capital, and destined for Zenica, was delayed most of yesterday by Serbs along the Bosnia-Croatia border. That convoy, too, has now been given permission to complete its journey and is expected to reach Zenica today. The Zenica UNHCR warehouse, which supplies most of central Bosnia, has already been empty for a month.

British Coldstream Guards are also expected today to escort another convoy of 40 lorries carrying 400 tons of food from Tomislavgrad to Zenica. Croats finally agreed that the road would be opened after negotiations with British UN officers.

Negotiations also allowed a group of 14 wounded Sarajevo residents to leave for America, Finland and Luxembourg yesterday. Despite a personal agreement between Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb

leader, and Sadako Ogata, the head of the UNHCR, the medical evacuation had been blocked by local Serb authorities in the morning.

One patient, a 24-year-old Serb who lived in the city and had been hit by a Bosnian Serb sniper, was in danger of dying from his chest wound if the evacuation were further delayed. A UNHCR official claimed a Serb liaison officer had said of the wounded man: "Let him die." After renewed appeals to Dr Karadzic, the group was eventually able to leave on a Canadian military cargo plane in the afternoon.

On Monday night American air force cargo planes parachuting food to besieged Muslim enclaves also dropped early Christmas toys. The communities of Tuzla and Tesanj received several tons of food and several boxes of toys. Last night other communities were also scheduled to receive presents from the sky.

Some officials, including many UN officers, question the propriety of dropping toys when food and medicines are so critically needed. "There are too many people starving for us to be dropping toys," one UN officer said.

The drops of toys also provoked anger because the enclaves which received them are mostly Muslim, where Christmas is not celebrated. Indeed, many Serbs and Croats fighting Bosnia's Muslims and besieging the towns where the toys were dropped, describe their struggle as that of Christianity against Islam. But relief supplies are forced through. Americans may as well continue air dropping teddy bears.

Muslims mixed, page 1



European Union sends confused signal to the warring factions

WITH its decision to offer Serbia a suspension of sanctions for concessions on land and brandishing the threat of force against Balkan warlords who ambush aid deliveries, Europe's governments seem to have chosen a "carrot and stick" policy in Bosnia. The stick is about as menacing as a twig.

The mediators and diplomats who work to set up yet another round of talks on redrawing the map of Bosnia or to send in another lorryload of aid know that agreements made a long way from Bosnia may not mean much on the ground. The same applies to agreements reached inside the foreign ministers' council of the retitled European Union. The ministers can agree a communiqué: the words don't always mean much on the ground.

As he left Monday's meeting in Luxembourg, Douglas Hurd warned that any use of force to help get convoys through to the freezing and isolated towns of central

George Brock argues that the real policy of the UN powers is towards disengagement. Britain has hinted that it will pull out its troops next year

Bosnia was "unlikely". Willy Claes, Belgium's foreign minister and chairman of the meeting which Mr Hurd had just left, told the world that he hoped that United Nations troops "would not hesitate" to fire back if convoys

were ambushed in breach of agreements about safe routes for food and medicine. Mr Hurd was minimalist; Mr Claes maximalist; Mr Hurd predicted the future more accurately.

Diplomatic manoeuvring inside the European Union or the UN over Bosnia follows one clear rule. A government's enthusiasm for the use of force to deliver aid or to tilt the balance of the war

is in inverse proportion to its military commitment on the ground. Mr Hurd displays not the slightest warmth for the idea that British soldiers should be entangled in fire-fights with what Monday's communiqué delicately called "uncontrolled elements" from militias governing the movement of aid convoys. That, he says, would slide Britain into full-scale warfare or humiliating withdrawal.

Mr Hurd has at least been consistent. He cannot stop his fellow foreign ministers threatening brigands with punishment: he simply relies on the fact that Britain and France, deploying the only contingents of any size, will try their hardest to avoid UN troops doing any fighting. Although the onset of win-

ter has hauled Bosnia's snow-dusted refugees back on to television, the real drift of the UN powers is towards disengagement. America and Germany, keenest to swing intervention behind the shattered Bosnian Muslims, have both lost domestic support at home by sending soldiers to Somalia. Deployments of either American or German troops in Bosnia are now less probable than ever.

Mr Hurd and his officials are pointing quietly to the date of March 31, when the European Union's current "joint" Balkan policy expires, and hinting that if matters have not improved, British troops may not stay. A German official explained that among the foreign ministers there were now two schools of thought: those who thought all forms of mediation and intervention were hopeless and those who backed one last effort to make a breakthrough. Governments this week chose the second option, but most of them seem pessimistic.



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Americans rescue crashed RAF jet pilot in Iraq

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IN A covert American helicopter operation, an RAF Harrier pilot was rescued from a remote part of northern Iraq yesterday after he had been forced to eject from his fighter aircraft.

Parachuting into a mountainous region in freezing conditions, the pilot's personal locator beacon, attached to his lifejacket and transmitting a distress-frequency signal, helped to guide his rescuers to him. The pilot had been flying his single-seat Harrier GR7 over the Kurdish area of Iraq on a routine patrol. British, American and French aircraft have been flying over northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war to protect the Kurds from Iraqi attacks. The RAF's mission is codenamed Operation Warden.

The drama began early

yesterday when the Harrier, the most advanced version of the jumpjet, suffered mechanical failure. The unnamed pilot was able to send a distress signal before ejecting. Landing in daylight, he suffered only minor injuries. He went down inside the Iraqi border about 250 miles east of Incirlik, the Turkish base from where the Harrier and other coalition aircraft mount daily patrols.

Satellites would also have picked up the distress signal, alerting ground stations. However, RAF sources said that since the pilot had managed to use his radio before ejecting, the American helicopter rescue team would have homed in on the same distress frequency as his personal locator beacon.

The Americans have devel-

oped a sophisticated covert search-and-rescue technique using Chinooks and other helicopters to fly behind enemy lines to rescue downed aircrew and "compromised" special forces troops. A special US rescue team is based at Incirlik. Yesterday was the first time a pilot had been rescued from northern Iraq.

An attempt may be made to recover the crashed Harrier to help the RAF board of enquiry in its investigation of the cause of the mechanical failure. A spokesman for the US Air Force at Incirlik declined to give further details of the rescue.

The crashed Harrier was one of eight GR7s from No 4 Squadron, based at Laarbruch in Germany, which replaced the detachment of Jaguars at Incirlik earlier this year. The Harriers often fly on missions with American aircraft, such as the F4G Wild Weasel electronic warfare plane.

The value of maintaining a combat helicopter rescue unit was underlined during the Gulf war. American helicopters and expertise had to be relied on when attempts were made to rescue personnel behind enemy lines. The RAF is considering training its own specialised combat search-and-rescue teams for behind-the-lines operations.



Palestinians hurling stones at an Israeli army post in Ramallah on the West Bank yesterday following last week's fatal shooting of a classmate

Israeli militants face crackdown

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli government served notice yesterday that its security forces in the occupied territories will be given tough new orders to crack down on the activities of militant Jewish settlers.

In a move normally reserved for radical Arab groups opposed to the peace agreement with the Palestinians, the government of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is planning to use its full military force to halt a recent campaign of violence and intimidation by heavily armed Jewish militants.

David Libai, the justice minister, said yesterday: "What must be clear is that your being a Jew in the territories does not give you immunity from the use of legal measures against you."

On Sunday settler leaders representing 125,000 Jewish residents in the occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip announced the start of a "militant direct action" campaign aimed at thwarting the peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The agreement envisages the transfer of authority from Israeli military rule to Palestinian self-government in the territories, effectively leaving the 145 settlements in a state of limbo.

In the past few weeks, groups of Jewish vigilantes have gone on the rampage, destroying Arab cars and property, and shooting several Palestinians in random retaliatory attacks. Last week in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian shot by a Jewish vigilante died of his wounds.

To combat the upsurge in violence, Michael Ben-Yair, the attorney-general, has recommended the use of several draconian measures against the settlers,

who until last year's elections enjoyed strong political and financial support from the previous right-wing Likud government. The recommendations, in a report due for cabinet approval on Sunday, are believed to include: boosting the surveillance operation by the Shin Bet intelligence service against settler leaders; banning a settler vigilante group calling itself the Road Safety Committee, which is linked to the racist Kach movement; and giving soldiers of all ranks the power to arrest Jewish suspects.

Amman: King Hussein told parliament yesterday that Jordan was taking "fool-proof, wisely regulated" steps towards peace with Israel but a full settlement was impossible while the Jewish state demanded sole sovereignty over Jerusalem. (Reuters)

Jackson sued by guards

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SANTA MONICA

FIVE former security guards are suing Michael Jackson, claiming he sacked them because they knew too much about his alleged activities with young boys.

Their suit, filed on Monday, added to Jackson's woes before a superior court hearing yesterday into allegations that he molested a 13-year-old boy. At the hearing Jackson's lawyers asked the judge to delay the boy's lawsuit for six years, when the statute of limitations expires.

Jackson maintains that the boy's allegations stem from a failed \$20 million (£13.5 million) extortion attempt. Jackson, whose lawyer denied the guards' claims, has not been charged with any crime and police are still investigating the allegations.



Jackson: molestation enquiry continuing

Murder defendants remove ANC arbiter

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

THE trial of three men accused of killing Amy Biehl, the American exchange student battered and stabbed to death after taking colleagues home to a township outside Cape Town in August, was again interrupted yesterday when Justice Poswa, their counsel, objected to one of the two assessors assisting the judge.

He told the judge that the accused, who acknowledge being Pan Africanist Congress members, objected to Renata Williams assisting him because she was a member of the rival African National Congress. Mr Poswa also objected to Miss Williams because she is a friend of the head of the university department to which Biehl was attached.

In granting Miss Williams' request to be allowed to excuse herself, Mr Justice Gerald Friedman said: "I want to make it perfectly clear that I have not the slightest doubt that Miss Williams would not have been influenced in any way by the fact she is a member of the ANC." He then adjourned the hearing until this morning.

In the dock are Mongesi Mangina, 21, and Mzikhona Nolemla and Vusumzi Ntamo, both 22. Three other defendants were released on Monday. A seventh has absconded.

Johannesburg: More than 1,000 people in the Mandela View black squatter camp 40 miles east of here are thought to have contracted typhoid. Two people have died.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cold kills 26 across Europe

London: Record low temperatures have claimed scores of victims and caused havoc across Europe as far as Kiev (Our Foreign Staff writes). A dozen homeless people died in Russia, France and Germany. Fourteen more people died in heater accidents in Ukraine and eastern France.

The deaths of six homeless men on the streets of Paris has prompted a national outcry. In Moscow, four people froze to death and nine were taken to hospital. Two homeless men in their fifties also died of cold in east Germany.

Team picked

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's leader, has named a transitional regime, including Baha Gana Kingibe, Chief Moshood Abiola's running mate in the annulled presidential elections. (AFP)

Burundi aid

Geneva: The UN appealed for \$6.5 million to help the survival of 250,000 people in Burundi and gave a warning there could be a new wave of ethnic violence in the Central African country. (Reuters)

Kennedy freed

Arlington, Vermont: William Kennedy Smith, the nephew of Senator Edward Kennedy, pleaded "no contest" to charges of punching a bouncer. He agreed to carry out community service and was placed on a year's unsupervised probation. (AP)

Whale of a tale

Oslo: Lef Hansen, 59, a Norwegian fisherman, claims his 15-foot boat was attacked by a 24-ft minke whale which then swam ahead of him for 15 minutes, forcing him to take evasive action. (Reuters)

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£50,000 - £99,999	5.625%	5.77%	4.22%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.25 %	5.38%	3.94%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.875%	4.99%	3.66%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.875%	3.94%	2.91%
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£25,000 - £49,999	4.375%	4.45%	3.28%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.00 %	4.06%	3.00%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.625%	3.67%	2.72%
First Reserve Instant Access			
£1,000 and above	3.50 %	3.55%	2.63%
£500 - £999	3.25 %	3.29%	2.44%
£250 - £499	1.50 %	1.51%	1.13%
£100 - £249	1.375%	1.38%	1.03%
£50 - £99	1.25 %	1.26%	0.94%
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£2,000 - £9,999	3.25 %	3.29%	2.44%
World Savers (for Children)	0.75 %	0.75%	0.56%
The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Interest will be paid gross. The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax. The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the rate where gross interest payments are retained in the account during the year. The Net Rate is the rate paid after deducting income tax at the Basic Rate, currently 25%.			
National Westminster Bank Plc 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2EP			

Hurd is to speed over the

Girobank plc Base Rate

Girobank and others to business yesterday (23 November 1993) its Base Rate was reduced from 5.5% per annum

مكتبة الأصل

Hurd tells Peking to speed up deal over Hong Kong

By JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG
AND MICHAEL BENVENISTE
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MA YINCHU, the Chinese ambassador to Britain, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to be reminded that time is running out in the Hong Kong negotiations.

Although the Foreign Office played down the gravity of his discussion with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, official sources in the colony stated that Mr Ma had been told "it is essential to get these matters settled fast".

The Chinese had previously indicated that they were now in a mood to make concessions on relatively simple matters, but Chris Patten, the governor, said two days ago that "the less contentious issues remain doggedly unresolved".

The talks, in the words of an official source, "are going backwards". He drew attention to a report from Peking that the Chinese are now saying their security services have information that certain members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council (Legco) belonged to organisations aimed at overthrowing the Chinese government and that after the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989 they had "wanted persons to escape from China".

This would strengthen previously vague allegations of "subversion" against Legco members who the Chinese have said will not be qualified to hold their positions after the 1997 transfer of sovereignty. British officials in Hong Kong

■ Cat-and-mouse tactics by China in talks on the transfer of power in 1997 have caught Hong Kong officials in a diplomatic trap and left them searching for a quick escape

express bitterness that they were led into a diplomatic trap by the Chinese just before the critical cabinet meeting on the colony two weeks ago.

At the fifteenth round of talks, and in private meetings with Sir Robin McLaren, the British ambassador in Peking, the Chinese offered to narrow the gap by agreeing to discuss relatively unimportant matters such as the voting age and how the elections in 1994 and 1995 would be conducted. It is conceded that these last-minute indications caused the relatively low-key remarks made in public by Mr Hurd.

which were interpreted by Peking-controlled Hong Kong papers as an eagerness to compromise.

"Then we discovered in the sixteenth round that they were reneging," said a source, "and that they had never meant what they said ten days before. That's pretty crude. We're in a mood now to make a deal fast or bring in the legislation ourselves."

□ Washington: President Clinton was preparing to outline a "new approach" to defusing the North Korean nuclear crisis late yesterday provided he enlisted the support of President Kim Young Sam of South Korea at a White House meeting (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr Clinton was expected to propose a series of incremental concessions to North Korea, each contingent on reciprocal steps by Pyongyang towards the full disclosure and dismantlement of its nuclear weapons programme. The administration won the broad endorsement of South Korea, Japan and China for that approach during last weekend's Pacific Rim summit in Seattle, but before yesterday's meeting South Korean officials were still concerned that the American plan might appear to be far too conciliatory.

McLaren, Chinese said they were ready to talk

Clinton move ends air strike

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

WITH AN unusual intervention to end a four-day strike of 21,000 cabin crew at American Airlines, President Clinton did what no other American president has tried since Lyndon Johnson, using the authority of the White House to get involved directly in an air labour dispute.

By doing so, he risked accusations of meddling in the private sector's own business, but the gamble paid off, and in the end he secured a double round of applause. One came

from the travelling public, which is now spared delays during the forthcoming Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The other was from the unions, which appeared to have secured the better end of the deal. After alienating the unions over the North American Free Trade Agreement, ending the strike was a perfect opportunity for President Clinton to begin a process of reconciliation with them.

The applause from the management of American Airlines

was more muted. Robert Crandall, the company's president, reluctantly agreed to binding arbitration, a central union request which he had only rejected on Sunday. Defending his turn-around, he said that for anyone "to say, 'No, I won't do that' to the president requires an awfully good reason".

In a White House statement, President Clinton sought to justify his intervention in the strike on the ground of public interest.

Convict's tale sparks Alcatraz manhunt

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

THE hunt for three prisoners whose breakout three decades ago inspired the Clint Eastwood film *Escape From Alcatraz* has begun again after a former inmate provided new information and admitted he had helped in the planning.

In a television interview to be broadcast in America next week, Thomas Kent, a one-time prisoner at the notorious island jail in San Francisco Bay, discloses that the three escapees had an accomplice waiting on shore to take them to Mexico in 1962 when they managed to flee.

Police and the FBI have long assumed that Frank Lee Morris and two brothers, Clarence and John Anglin, all drowned or were eaten by sharks in the mile-wide channel between "the Rock" and the mainland. "Although we never found the bodies, we presumed they had drowned because a makeshift car and a life vest turned up on nearby Angel Island," said Dave Branham, a spokesman for the US Marshals Service.

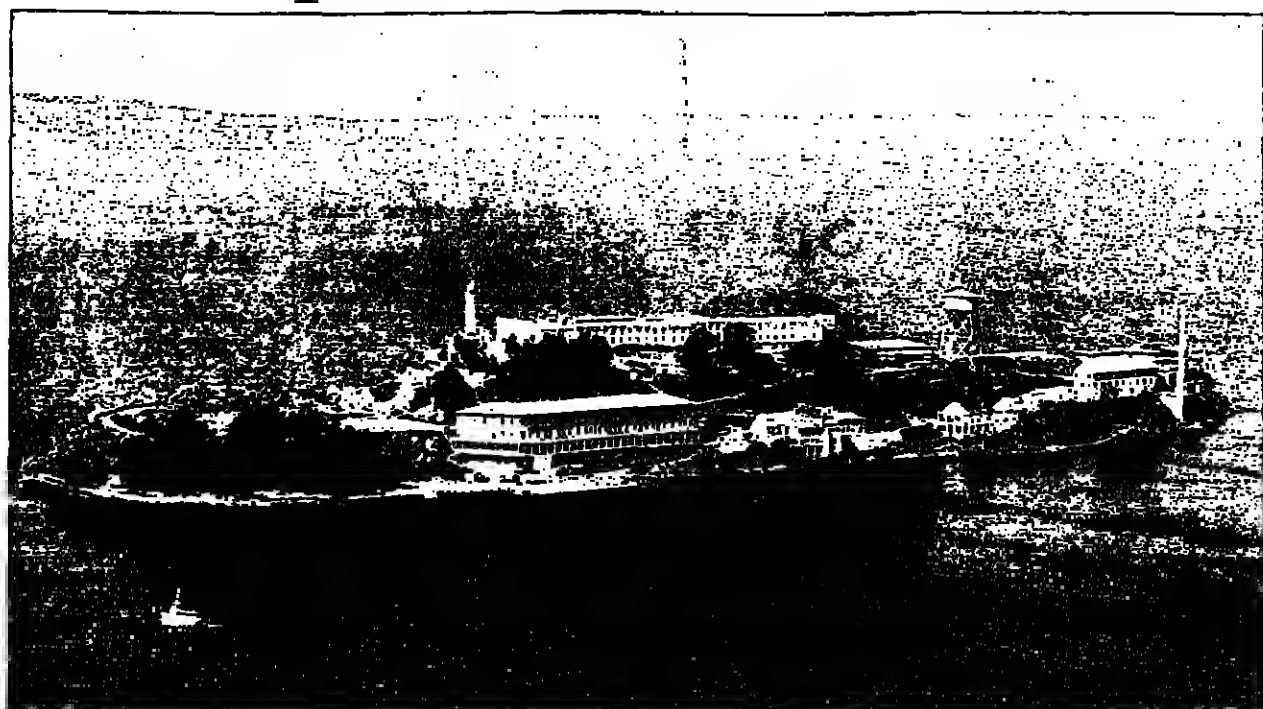
But Mr Kent's evidence has persuaded the authorities to reconsider the case, which was never formally closed. "We think there is a possibility they are alive," said Mr Branham.

Mr Kent, now 67, says he helped to plot the breakout but backed out at the last moment because he could not swim. The FBI had previously believed the men dug their way out using spoons, but Mr Kent claims the group stole a vacuum cleaner which they converted into a drill. Using this tool during the evening music hour to drown the noise, the inmates apparently widened a ventilation duct to the prison roof.

On June 11, 1962, according to Mr Kent, they slid down a drain pipe, climbed a barbed wire fence and reached the shore of Alcatraz island, where they climbed aboard a raft made out of raincoats smuggled from the prison sewing shop and buoyed up with a concertina.

They were never seen again, but Mr Kent claims the men had learnt Spanish and an accomplice, the girl friend of one of the prisoners, was waiting on shore to take them to a new life. The FBI had believed the testimony of another prisoner, now dead, who said the trio planned to steal a car when they reached the mainland. Since no thefts were reported, the authorities assumed the men had died.

"After 30 years they're well ensconced wherever they set



Alcatraz, the notorious island jail in San Francisco Bay which was reputed to be the most secure prison in the United States. The breakout by three inmates 31 years ago inspired a film starring Clint Eastwood, below

ded, and I couldn't harm them now," Mr Kent, a convicted bank robber paroled in 1965, told the *Chicago Tribune*. He claims to have had no contact with the escapees.

Mr Kent, who now lives in San Diego, said that up to 40 prisoners were involved in the plot to enable the three convicted bank robbers to escape. He said he had been questioned by police four years ago, but at that point had maintained his silence.

The original escape prompted dozens of tips and false trails over the years, and helped turn the prison into a tourist attraction. As a publicity stunt a ferry company, which takes more than one million tourists to and from the island every year, has offered a \$1 million (£680,000) reward for information leading to the escapees' arrest. Mr Kent may be first in line to claim the money if the new enquiry yields results.

In 1986 a prisoner in Wyoming, also named Clarence Anglin, claimed to be the grandson of one of the fugitives. His namesake and grandfather, he said, had



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1.375%	£2,000 - £24,999	1.38%
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* Where appropriate, Base Rate will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which
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The Diarist rails against a most barbarous entertainment

PENNED IN haste this Twenty-Fourth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord 1993.

And so I, Samuel Pepys, take up my pen again after a sad lapse of more than three centuries to record a strange and discomforting intelligence in my privy Diary. The players of this bustling New Age have proclaimed that they will present my Life and my Diary at their little mechanical Playhouse, barbarously misnamed "the television", which has its separate stage in every house in the land. I trust my descendants in the Royal Society have taken a share in this innovation, though such honest and painful scholars cannot surely have been consulted over its mongrel name.

I made it my business to watch a libel on the Court on the actors' engine last night, entitled *To Play the King*, and it was the most insipid ridiculous play that ever I saw in my life, as feeble as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by that older upstart, Will Shakespeare.

They have, it is rumoured at the Royal Court, engaged the leading player of the day, one Master Kenneth Branagh, to represent me. He is said to be a pretty enough fellow, and a high flyer, as they call it — though I misdoubt that any player can do me justice in my prime, with my new periwig and silk suit, which cost me much money. They say that Master Branagh has read my Diary, and admires it with such a "complete passion" that he had an usher read out a passage at his wedding. Strange to say what delight we married people have, even centuries after death, to see these poor fools still decoyed into our condition, and still remembering us.

My Diary was written for mine Eyes only, for there be

Play it again, Sam



Samuel Pepys: TV debut

many accounts in it that I should not have wished known by my wife, poor wretch. To take a loxing instance that troubles me, there I recorded many pleasant but secret encounters that I had with pretty ladies of my acquaintance, where I did what *je voudrais avec* them, both *devante* and backward, which is also my bon plazer.

I fear with what explicit roguery and shamelessness the television players will present these occasions, for I am told that My Lord Chamberlain has lately been relieved of his duty to censor the players and restrain their customary lewdness.

It was to conceal such privy matters, as well as such dangerous political indiscretions as describing the Duchess of

Albermarle as "a damned ill-looking woman", that I devised the cunning cipher in which I composed my Diary. This has only lately been entirely deciphered, in a masterpiece of lively scholarship, by Masters R Latham and W Matthews at my beloved college of Magdalene beside the Cam, where still rest my books in their oaken presses.

I trust that the managers of the television play will consult such scholars in their work. I fear recurrence of the horrid libel bruited against me by such flighty entertainers, who wrote: "Among the famous characters of the period were Samuel Pepys, who is memorable for keeping a Diary and going to bed a great deal, and his wife Evelyn, who kept another memorable diary, but did not go to bed in it." So traducing also my good friend, John Evelyn.

THEY SAY that the "television" will cost no fewer than ten millions, when I was once ashamed when my entertainment one week cost me above £12. So I see that it is impossible for these producers to have things done as cheap as other men. But in spite of my misgivings, entertainment and women I cannot but give way to, whatever my business is. I was the Paul Pry of my age, with my constantly shifting attention, and a mind which I said was "with child to see any strange thing".

I shall see my resurrection by Master Branagh, reserving my right to laugh and jeer at his mistakes and appearance. And mighty proud I am (and thankful to God Almighty) that I and my Diary are still remembered long after I last laid down my pen.

Samuel Pepys was talking to Philip Howard.

Is faith worth a button?

Rachel Kelly
peers into the
secrets of the
Church of
England's
collection plate

The punsters have been having fun. Headlines rang out yesterday "Let us pray" and "Can't pay, won't pray": cartoonists enjoyed picturing the "Church of St Mark the Tax Gatherer, where today's bargain hymns cost £1, service not included." (It should be St Matthew, actually.)

The reason? The Rev Derek Sawyer, vicar of St Aldate's, Gloucester, wants to introduce a membership subscription scheme to save his church. "The Church is rapidly going out of business," he writes in the latest edition of the St Aldate parish magazine. "People don't like to admit it, but it is a fact. Perhaps the only way forward is to say you can only belong to a church if you pay a subscription."

Mr Sawyer proposes that a family would pay £12 a week for church membership and a single person £7. Poor families the retired, unemployed and students would pay £3.

"Only half are paying realistically," Mr Sawyer says. "However poor you are, you can afford to put more than 20p in the plate." (Or buttons: the traditional response of the stingy.)

So how much should you



The spirit of giving: a collection from parishioners is taken at the Church of St Mary of the Angels, Bayswater

give? A straw poll reveals that the going rate for a country squire is now about £10. For the rest of us, to each according to his bonus, and how good the sermon is. There are those who knock £1 off for a bad sermon, and add 50p for a good one. Heavy-handed pressure from the priest to give

more often backfires. One colleague switched churches after a sermon in which the priest berated his congregation in general for their short arms and deep pockets, and the person who had had the temerity to give 50p in particular.

You cannot, of course, ask someone how much they contribute to their local church. It would be rather like asking how much they earn or whether they are unfaithful to their wife. Nor is it acceptable to show how much you are giving. The well-behaved parishioner gives his money, like his hand in marriage, discreetly and soberly, paw clutched into a fist to conceal his contribution.

In country churches, at least, it is accepted that giving should reflect rank. The squire in the front pew sets the pace; others take their cue from him.

Putting a price on prayer may make good fun for cartoonists, but it should alarm Anglicans. There is a serious point here. How is the church to fund itself in future? As Mr Sawyer points out, his parish is running at a deficit of £40 a week, and many others are in the same position.

Donations to the parish plate have to fund most of a parish's expenses, and the proportion may be rising as the contribution of the Church Commissioners shrinks. Of the nation's 11 million regular Anglican church-goers, those who covenant donations through Nigel

Lawson's give-as-you-earn scheme give an average of £3 each a week. Others drop an average of just £1.39 into the plate.

Some parishes are more generous than others. Figures from Church House for 1990, the latest year available for all 43 dioceses, show that parishioners in London gave an

average of £4, while those in Chichester paid £2.10, one of the lowest. Meanest of all are parishioners from Truro, who paid £1.65, closely followed by Lincoln at £1.70.

The Right Rev Bill Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, was so horrified by how little his parishioners contributed, that earlier this year he decided to set an example by giving 5 per cent of his £20,000 annual salary — about £20 a week — and hopes that the habit will trickle down to those in the pews.

Churches can, and do, supplement their income with the usual round of fests and bazaars, but whichever way you pray, the money is not enough. Last year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr

George Carey, appealed for the laity to give 5 per cent of their income to the church.

Our medieval forebears would have considered this a bargain. They were expected to give one-tenth of the produce of the land to the Church, at first voluntarily but made compulsory by the end of the 8th century. The "great" tithes were those of major crops, the "small" consisting of lesser produce.

Predictably enough, tithes became a source of friction between parson and parishioner. With the rise of the Puritans and later of non-conformity, grievance grew. "Commutation of tithes" began before 1600, by which the tithe became a rent. Acts of 1836, 1937 and 1951 commuted tithes to lump sums payable by instalments. Now the church demands nothing from its worshippers. Mr Jenkins says "It would not be right to discriminate against parishioners on the basis of an ability to pay."

But if you cannot force parishioners to pay, the only hope is that they will pay more voluntarily. The Church's own solution to its financial problems is simple. "If everybody gave that little bit more, we would be all right," Mr Jenkins says.

Perhaps the collection plate could come round more than once. Perhaps there is much to be said for Mr Sawyer's plan. A payment of £624 for spiritual sustenance for the whole family sounds cheap. And one wouldn't have to go to the cash-point on Sundays.

'If everybody gave that little bit more, we would be all right'

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A study in failure

What made Julian Jebb's life so special that it sparked a volume of tributes from his famous colleagues?

Suicide is still the unforgivable sin, an insult to the living. Nine years ago Julian Jebb — critic, bohemian and pioneer of television — died of an overdose of Heminevrin. He was 50. The suicide of one so young, so talented, so obviously liked is always a matter for bafflement. As Germaine Greer wrote when he died: "You weren't friendless; you weren't ill; you weren't loveless; you weren't unemployed; you weren't broke; but you wanted to be dead."

In Jebb's case, the mystery is partly alleviated by a dedicated fan: Julian Jebb 1934-1984 (Penguin Press, £25), a volume of reminiscences and fragments edited and published by Tristram and Georgia Powell. What made his life special enough to evoke such affection from the likes of A.S. Byatt, V.S. Naipaul or Patrick Leigh Fermor?

For all his much-attested conversational brilliance, his precocious performances in the Cambridge Footlights, his interviewing technique, his documentaries, Jebb saw himself as a failure.

Why did the novels he began never get beyond page 40, as one friend records? At one level, his shipwreck is easy to understand. Jebb was an alcoholic, a homosexual, a depressive, and addicted to anti-depressants. Barry Humphries made him go to Alcoholics Anonymous, but it did no good; Humphries adds,

tellingly: "Well-meaning friends did not always do Julian a service by propping him up with cash, holidays and other favours, like a spoilt child."

Jebb was also deeply sensitive about his looks and his diminutive stature; his friends often describe him in mythological terms ("something between Puck and the god Hermes in an English incar-

"He sat in his study, dressed in a black suit, stained by food and candle grease, reading his own works," wrote Jebb years later. "...the household could often hear his exclamations, 'Admirable!' we heard. 'This man can write!'" No wonder Jebb conceived a deep dislike of Belloc's "upper-class Edwardian morbidity" and the "Gallic address" that was maintained by his parents Rex and Eleanor long after the old man's death. He extended this hostility to their Catholicism and its "suffocating aura of exclusiveness, sentimentality and guilt-expiation".

He inherited a deep and ineradicable sense of inadequacy, Belloc: Lord Lundy told: "Sir! you have disappointed us! We had intended you to be/The next Prime Minister but three... Oddly enough, Jebb did not disappoint anyone by his failure to become a successful writer — anyone, that is except himself."

Antonia Fraser tells a funny story about Jebb meeting Harold Pinter and advising the playwright to bury the hatchet with Proust's formidable and obstructive niece by embracing her. "But Harold, can't you see, all she needs is love? That was the doctrine of the 1960s: the trouble was that Jebb didn't really believe it. His inner voice said: 'This man cannot write!' And that he could not bear."

DANIEL JOHNSON



Jebb: he seemed to have everything to live for

In memory of the dead: 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it'

Why Auschwitz must be saved

Roger Boyes on the significance of a \$20m project to restore a Nazi camp, after 50 years of neglect

Striding across the bleak buckled terrain of Birkenau — named after the birch trees that still bend to the winds of southern Poland — it is easy to crush something underfoot. On my last trip to the concentration camp, known as Auschwitz II, it was a set of blackened cutlery that cracked like a brittle collarbone.

Unlike the main Auschwitz camp, which has been carefully shaped into a museum, Birkenau has been left untouched. The wooden huts are splintering, the roofs leak and in a strong gale the buildings simply collapse. The bunk beds of the inmates are etched with graffiti — Jean Louis Gary — but no signs point to the gas chambers, the crematoria, or to the rail ramp where the SS doctors chose those fit to work and those destined to die.

Only a few survivors of the camps will be alive in ten or 15 years. All that will remain will be these fragile blocks and the artefacts — the pile of suitcases, the artificial limbs, the spectacles, the children's shoes and, most poignant of all, the 7,000 kilos of human hair. The hair is important, perhaps most important of all, for it is the last physical trace of those who died in the Holocaust: long black tresses that must have been intricately plaited in the crowded cattle trucks as they rattled through Europe to Oswiecim, the Polish name for Auschwitz. Brown, chestnut, even Nordic blonde hair, all finely dusted with insect repellent.

Ron Lauder, a son of the cosmetics millionaire Estée Lauder, is the moving force behind the rescue of the Auschwitz camp. "When you look at the suitcases and the eye glasses," he says, "they're inanimate but with hair you feel something very powerful and intimate." Mr Lauder, now chief executive of the Central European Development Corporation, first visited the camp in 1987 and was so shocked by its condition that he decided to start the international appeal.

The Polish government had made a decision after the war to make the first Auschwitz camp, with its sturdy redbrick barracks into a museum against fascism, and to leave nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau as it stood. As a result, there has been only enough money for a small staff at the camp to keep it clean. The damp, the cold and the rapid shift of temperature on the boggy banks of the River Sola have taken their toll.

Mr Lauder's achievement has been remarkable. In four years he has raised \$20 million from 20 nations to keep the camp from falling down. Some small countries — such as Belgium and Greece — contributed immediately



The watchtowers of Auschwitz, a permanent reminder of the crimes perpetrated in the name of Nazism. Some \$20 million has been raised to keep its sister camp, Birkenau, from falling into ruin

while others waited for Germany to make its offering. After repeated prodding and some considerable diplomacy (Mr Lauder learnt to walk on egg shells when he was American ambassador to Austria during the presidency of Kurt Waldheim), the German government contributed DM10 million and pledged a further ten million. German industrialists have also been chipping in. The British government has, however, expressed little interest.

The deterioration had to be stopped quickly, Mr Lauder says, "because in another five to ten years it would have been too late. That was our first goal. Secondly we wanted to keep the state of the camp in a stable condition."

The rescue operation is under way and conservationists in America, Poland and Israel are considering such matters as whether the hair should be on permanent display, and whether the railway line in Birkenau, just restored, should have been left in its ruined state. Where is the dividing line between "stabilisation" and "re-creation"? This is not merely an academic

debate. It touches the very pulse of contemporary politics: revisionist historians say, for example, that the gas chamber in Auschwitz is a fake and use this to prop up their argument that Nazis did not systematically murder the Jews. Dr Jerry Wroblewski, director of the Auschwitz museum, freely admits that the gas chamber in the main camp is a re-creation; the original was destroyed by the Russians when they liberated the camp. Every restored ruin involves some compromise and this was a necessary one, he says.

At stake is the nature of memory. United Germany, as the American cultural historian Claudia Koonz says, is trying to rebuild its history: "The Germans feel empowered and they're coming out from under the guilt. They've become a normal nation and now they want a normal history which focuses on national suffering and not on shame." There is a general feeling that Germany should be allowed to mourn its war dead. The far right, however, takes this a step further, celebrating wartime murderers, playing down their atrocities and trampling on the memory of the victims.

The German government tries to draw a line between its version of history and that of the Holocaust-deniers. But for young Germans, especially in the East, that line is already blurred. Two young neo-Nazis who were accused last year of setting fire to the Jewish quarters in Sachsenhausen camp

pretext for Soviet propaganda. It took three years after German unification for historians to agree to lay even a modest stone tablet commemorating the 11,000 murdered Jews in Buchenwald. When the Japanese emperor visited near-Weimar in September, it was decided that Buchenwald should not be included on his tour. Instead, he spent his time admiring Goethe's study. "You cannot separate light and shadow in this place," pleaded the local Christian Democrat politician Christine Lieberknecht before the visit. But, of course, you can: shadows can be sold. How else to explain the two-year discussion about whether to build a supermarket close to Ravensbrück concentration camp? Or the architectural competition to redevelop the Sachsenhausen site — the local council was keen to integrate the SS barracks into a new housing estate. Another

Gentrification of the camps has become an obstacle to understanding

scheme was to redevelop the camp guardhouse into a health and beauty centre.

The tendency to regard these camps as pieces of real estate will probably get worse. In the West there was no shortage of funds for the upkeep of camps. Yet the gentrification of Dachau (or Mauthausen, in Austria, with its pretty tubs of flowers) has become an obstacle to understanding. In Belsen there are merely huge slabs of stone noting the number of the dead. The horror of the bulldozed corpses has been replaced by a kind of sterile park. All too often the German teachers taking their pupils to the camp as part of the school curriculum fail to spark the imagination.

"Take children to the camps, and they have a ball," Dr Koonz says. "They climb on monuments, squeeze into the crematoria to stick out their heads and pose for pictures." It takes an imaginative leap for the young Germans to identify with the victims of their grandfathers' crimes. If they fail to make that connection, they can all too easily be attracted by the insignia of the once-powerful: the swastikas and the jack boots.

The words of the philosopher Santayana — those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it — are written on top of Block IV in the main Auschwitz camp. It is too harsh a judgement on the Germans to suggest that the dark times are returning.

New memory cells are being born in the most unlikely places. Some 15-year-olds in the German town of Gütersloh recently found a neglected grave written in Hebrew. They translated the text and the family name, visited the library, tracked down relatives and wrote to them in Israel, inviting them to visit the school. When the children wanted to erect a plaque to the family, they were stopped by their elders. Local Germans had died in the war too, they were told, and those Germans had not been commemorated. Why should the Jews be so honoured?

That is why the rescue of Auschwitz has become so significant. Its horror is intact, the context is all too obvious. The history of the victims cannot be banished from the place: rather it hangs on by a hank of hair.

The leading black American intellectual of his age, W. E. B. Du Bois died in exile in Ghana in 1963, branded a communist, blacklisted in his own country, stripped of his passport and heartily loathed by academia. Thirty years later, with the civil rights movement he helped to build now an integral part of the culture, Du Bois has re-emerged as a pivotal figure in American history, a symbol of "icy and isolated racial integrity" in the words of one historian. During his long life Du Bois became, according to his new biographer, David Levering Lewis, the "civil rights role model to an entire race". But in the crucial years of the civil rights movement he slipped into semi-obscurity, an essentially Victorian thinker eclipsed by the young Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.

A Victorian in tune with today's rap music

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (pronounced Dew-bois, to rhyme with poise), scholarly, refined and elitist, might seem an unlikely founding-father for a movement which pitted the usually illiterate sons and daughters of slaves against the white establishment.

Born into the aftermath of civil war, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, (a town of 4,000 whites and some 30 blacks), Du Bois described his own racial mixture as "a flood of Negro blood, a strain of French, a bit of Dutch, but thank God! no Anglo-Saxon." As a young man, ambitious and fiercely intelligent, he set himself a simple and revolutionary task: "To prove to the

world that Negroes were just like other people."

But Du Bois himself was unlike almost any other black man of the time. Aided by the cash donations from the citizens of Great Barrington, he went first to Fisk University in Nashville before becoming the seventh black man to go to Harvard and the first to gain a PhD from that venerable institution, which he found "saturated with snobbery".

After gaining another doctorate, at the University of Berlin, he began his classic series of sociological studies of black life starting with *The Philadelphia Negro* (1899) and amounting, in the end, to 21 volumes and innumerable essays. *The Souls of Black*

Ben Macintyre on America's fierce founding father of black civil rights

Folk (1903) became a best-seller, described by Mr Lewis as "an epochal event ... like fireworks going off in a cemetery".

Du Bois was a passionate writer, combining an almost religious faith in the potential of his own race with a corrosive prose style. He opposed, with equal vigour, racism, sexism and anti-Semitism, and he imbued his work with an Afrocentric romanti-



Du Bois died in exile in Ghana

cism more reminiscent of our own age than his. As the author of five novels and an accomplished poet, his polemics were often lyrical and moving.

In 1898 he wrote: "It is a peculiar sensation, this sense of always looking at one's self the eyes of others. One ever feels his two-ness — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring

ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." They may express it rather differently, but many a modern rap musician would recognise and echo those sentiments.

In 1910 Du Bois co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), still the most powerful civil rights group in America, but it was probably his explosive relationship with Booker T. Washington, the other towering black figure of the era, that most clearly defined his philosophy.

Washington urged self-improvement for the black man through labour and economic betterment, "the politics of

compromise and the mien of ingratiation". He was not above making "darky" quips to please his white audiences.

But Du Bois, the fidgeting autocrat with the goatee beard, and the taste for German wines and foreign cigarettes, was made of more inflexible stuff, demanding that the "talented tenth" of the black population deserved precisely the same sort of education as talented whites.

Appalled by lynchings and shattered by the death of his two-year-old son from diphtheria, Du Bois turned from academic life towards racially radical journalism. He called on the Negro (his chosen word) to "demand his social rights: his rights to be treated

as a gentleman when he acts like one, to marry any sane, grown person who wants to marry him."

If that view sounds commonplace now, it was radical then, and often attacked. Increasingly disillusioned, as he grew older his calls for change became more anxious and fervent. He turned to communism. His later portraits resemble nothing so much as a black Lenin. He died aged 95, the day before Martin Luther King marched on Washington to deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech.

At the beginning of the century Du Bois had warned America: "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the colour line." His dream was pessimistic but prescient.

● W.E.B. Du Bois: *Biography of a Race*, Vol 1, 1868-1919 by David Levering Lewis, published by Henry Holt, \$35.



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Alan Coren



■ Icy roads? Snow drifts? No, the real menace is the designer tank

I knew the noise, last midnight. Who that lives on T-junctions does not? First there is the rasping sleet of braking tyres, then the clunk of mutually indenting coachwork, next the poignant clatter of a hubcap rolling workily away, and, finally, after a bit, the oaths and squeals of recriminative rage. So I threw on a coat against the falling snow, quickly checked in the cloakroom mirror that no smugness betrayed my solitude, always a risk, and popped outside.

An enormous Toyota Landcruiser, which had been belting incandescently in one direction, had collided with a huge Chrysler Jeep Wrangler which had been belting incandescently in the other. You could tell they had been belting incandescently by the fact that the anti-freeze from both fractured radiators was now conningling to produce hissing green channels in the frozen slush, which does not happen to cars that have been driven sensibly. So, then, do I blame the drivers? To an extent. But what I blame mainly is the cars.

I blame them for not being cars at all. What they are, and what they are inordinately proud of being, is off-road para-military vehicles, and there are more and more of them about, but they are not driven by off-road para-military people. They are driven by ordinary folk who are not entirely averse to letting it be thought that they might be off-road para-military people. They drive Range Rovers, but they do not rove ranges in them. They rove suburbia, praying to find a parking space large enough to accommodate their unnecessary bulk. They drive Vauxhall Fronteras, but they do not boldly go in them where none has gone before, they go to Waitrose and B&M and Sainsbury's. They drive Isuzu Troopers, but not towards the sound of the guns, only towards the sound of prep-school roars shrieking on metropolitan pavements. They drive Nissan Patrols, but not into No Man's Land, only into everyman's clogged side streets designed for something considerably less wide. They drive Ford Mavericks, but not to herd steers or pay out barbed wire, merely in order to drop the old man off at the railway station.

They do not need four-wheel drive, or 12 gears, or cross-country tyres, or cowcatchers, or banks of quartz halogen searchlights, or tow-bars, or clamps for shovels, theodolites, jerrycans, rocket-launchers. All they need is to convey the impression that they do; that when the long, dull week of advocacy or executive marketing or gynaeology or whatever is over, they are off across uncharted and inimical terrain to plough and stalk and brand and abseil, and that their holidays are spent not in some chic Riviera hotel or staff-crammed Tuscan villa, but in negotiating the virgin depths of the Mato Grosso or mercy-dashing through Serbian shot and shell.

Fine. Save for a little selfish gas-guzzling and the occasional side-swipe in a narrow road, they do no harm to anyone. But then it snows; and when it snows these folk suddenly find themselves in a position both to vindicate and to amortise their preposterous purchase. It is the only chance they get, and they grasp it gleefully. They do not chuck a fresh log on the fire and curl up, they dash out into the muck, for no other reason than that it is there; because a need for the unnecessary has created itself. Last weekend, forced to drive to Ware on glazed and fogbound roads, I found the world to be exclusively theirs. They hurried manically past me, to left and right, as if to cry, "See! See! Look at my chunky tyres, look at my big lights, eat my walrus, who is the dingbat now?" And when I pulled into a layby to wait for the snow, perhaps, to stop, a Land-Rover Discovery ploughed into the drift behind me, and the driver leapt out excitedly and asked if I was stuck, he had a rope, he had a power-winch, he could tow anything out of anywhere, and when I said thanks but I'm not, I could see at once that I had unmade his day. If you have a car like that, you want to show that it is a car like that. That is why I blame cars like that for last night's shunt.

After which they came in and phoned first for the AA, then for a cab, and when the cab arrived, I apologised to its driver for the fact that my road was icy. "No problem," he said. I couldn't look at them when he said it. My heart bled.



STUFFING

27/11/93 Peter Brooke

Sir Humphrey has a place

The first-class brains of a senior civil servant are sweated on the road today.

John Benjamin's hated mandarin ended his life impaled on the steering column of his Hummer "where the bypass comes out of Egham into Staines". John Major's mandarin is about to suffer a similar fate on the spike of open competition. The Downing Street efficiency unit yesterday recommended that senior posts — under-secretary and above — should in future be open to all-comers. The Whitehall closed shop is to end.

This is heady stuff. Civil servants are to be "held accountable" for policy failures. Those who cannot perform will be sacked. The days of "doistered worlds and magic paths to the top" are over. Ministries will be "ventilated from outside", market-tested, no longer free to "grow their own timber". They will be open to all the talents, notably those with "frontline experience in commerce and industry". Civil servants cannot have tenure for life. A minister will enjoy producer choice. If he does not like an official, he can sack him.

What does this blizzard of clichés signify? A decade of abuse of public administration has reached a crescendo. Antagonism to bureaucracy is universal. If Sir Humphrey is for the chop, a whole nation will apparently cheer his path to the guillotine. Were Voltaire alive today — bless the thought — he would rephrase his famous epigram that in Britain from time to time they kill, not an admiral, but an administrator to encourage the others.

Cursing bureaucrats has become a national sport. They are pests. The Welsh secretary accuses the health secretary of breeding them by the thousand. At the Tory conference, the word Brussels required only the suffix "bureaucrat" for the audience to erupt in a paroxysm of hate. The BBC is so propped up by bureaucrats that its boss, John Birt, must worry that his building will collapse without them. The police is "overbureaucratised", so is the Foreign Office, so is the defence ministry, so are the universities.

The vermin come in all shapes and sizes. There are marker bureaucrats, second-guessing bureaucrats, market-testing bureaucrats and bureaucrats with "nothing to do but meddle". There are health and safety bureaucrats, VAT bureaucrats, hospital bureaucrats. John Patten is creating a complete industry to run the nation's schools, composed entirely of bureaucrats. John Gummer is doing the same with his new regional

For all our loathing of the Whitehall bureaucrats, we rely upon their advice and experience to make things work

seats of government. The creatures swarm out of Whitehall to infest every home and small business in the land. Shakespeare's revolutionary, Dick the Butcher, cried, "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." Today he would kill all the pen-pushers.

Political machismo is now shown by a promise to "cut tiers of bureaucracy". There is no known case of this promise being met: few ministers have the guts. Cutting services is easier. I would bet that when Mr Major leaves office there will be more public administrators, properly defined, in Britain than when he entered it. Administration is a growth industry in every developed country. The public wants ever more services. Parliament forces government ever deeper into the lives of private citizens, supervising their pleasures, criminalising their dogs and now their first husbands. It will take twice as many bureaucrats to oversee the "privatised" British Rail as it took to oversee it when nationalised.

So, instead of cutting public administration, Mr Major is being told that his practitioners are not doing a distinctive job. A professional bluff is being called. A civil servant is not a surgeon or an engineer or a lawyer, applying a skill acquired over years of training and practice. Any able-bodied adult with some experience of management can dust a Whitehall seat.

The case for the prosecution is thus made easy: modern government must become more responsive to its "consumers", in whatever guise they come. That is what a private service also does. So make the one more like the other. But at present a bureaucrat can do only addition and multiplication, not division and subtraction. Closed shops have led to closed minds. Margaret Thatcher once told a group of public sector managers, "Of course if any of you were any good you would be off in private industry." Then they would have really to perform. If only, she implied, the

government could instil similar incentives in its own employees.

The case for the defence is more complicated. Ministers clearly believe that the civil service is not doing a good job. Yet the faults laid at Whitehall's door are mostly those of ministers. The poor quality of many parliamentary laws and Whitehall decisions has lately been attracting comment: the pit closure fiasco, defence cuts, the local finance acts, the education act, the scrappy legislation on rail privatisation, criminal evidence, television franchises and dog control. But scratch the surface of these incidents and the culprit is almost always an overbearing minister, frantic to make his mark by cutting corners. Ministers may be suspicious of civil servants who think they know best. They rarely do better alone.

Important distinctions are not being drawn. In the first place, public and private sectors are inherently different: the one is about making profit, the other is about making the fair redistribution of taxpayer's money. What public and privatised services have in common at present is upheaval. All change spawns paperwork and that means staff: the hated accountants, lawyers, consultants or office managers. But few can doubt that the BBC and the National Health Service, for instance, will end their present upheavals the stronger. Market testing and transfer pricing may be crude methods of attaching costs to objectives in public services. Their costs need watching. But they are better than political smash-and-grab.

In both sectors, management skills are hard to describe and harder still to detect in those who have never practised them. Management fulfils Coteau's maxim, "Never ask 'Is he any good?': just open the door and silently point to the tightrope." As most of British government is hived off into myriad managed services, it clearly needs leadership that can take, not obstruct, decisions, that

can hire and fire instead of "consulting the unions". That is the point of privatisation and delegation. Boosting rather than deriding the morale of such managers is surely important.

But the more management skill is applied to job centres, defence bases, motorway construction, prison administration, the less relevance it has for the most senior ranks in Whitehall. Their job is to advise ministers on forming and implementing policy. They are translators of the language of politics into the language of government. By all means let them experience what it means to be government's victims, but the "outside world" offers few lessons in the Whitehall art of converting the half-baked egotism of ministers into something that passes for a decision. The skills and incentives that make for success in business are quite distinct from those that make for success in this work. Senior Whitehall officials mostly make bad managers: theirs is the deferential steer, not the unequivocal lead.

The British civil service may have faults but it is not conspicuously worse than, say, America's open patronage system. Nor is it any worse than the artificial corporatism of many continental systems. The quality of British public administration lies in the tension between its temporary and its permanent components: between the aspirations of politicians and fiscal probity, between a "good idea" and what is practical. This tension only works if there are able people on both sides. When, as over the poll tax, the tension snaps and a shambles ensues, everybody suffers.

By all means privatise government services, hive regulators off into commissions and turn embassies into agencies. There are jobs here aplenty for Mr Major's open competition. But at the heart of public administration is a profession discreet from "business" or "management" that of giving impartial advice based on sound experience. Such a profession need not be a closed shop, but it must have some of the characteristics of a profession: codes, loyalties, independence, possibly smugness. It cannot be susceptible to party influence, performance measures or short-term contracts. It must have the freedom to disagree, to be wrong. This means job security beyond the term of any one government.

The first-class brains of the senior civil servant still have their uses — before we spread them out on the Staines bypass.

Ireland needs this initiative

Talking peace is not a betrayal, argues

George Brock

Lord Tebbit has every reason to loathe the IRA: his wife was paralysed by the Brighton bomb of 1984 and he was lucky to escape serious injury. But feelings are not a policy.

Lord Tebbit would like John Major to stop talking peace in Ireland on the grounds that even to use such language puts the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at risk. By criticising the prime minister's claims that conditions favour peace as never before, Lord Tebbit implies that the government should content itself with a seductively simple Irish policy: no politics and no diplomacy. Lord Tebbit belongs to the school of Tory thought which believes that all attempts made by governments to fashion intricate solutions themselves contribute to the fear and uncertainty which breed terrorism.

This is escapism masquerading as firmness. Governments facing sustained terrorist campaigns rightly treat violence as crime. But the crimes create political facts with which governments must deal, if they can. Reluctant though politicians are to admit it, many of Northern Ireland's headline-making horrors are beyond government control. Security forces have contained but not eliminated terrorism. Containing it involves taking account of the views of governments in Ireland, the rest of Europe and America. To cut off the supplies of money, arms and succour is impossible without help beyond British borders.

The IRA hunger strikes in the early 1980s established Sinn Féin as a political force. When the IRA murdered 11 people on Remembrance Sunday in Enniskillen just over six years ago, around 15,000 people in and around the town voted for Sinn Féin, the public relations organisation representing the killers. That may be unwelcome, but it is an unavoidable fact.

To his credit, Mr Major has not dodged it. In his Mansion House speech two weeks ago, he spelt out an obvious truth. If the IRA were to demonstrate beyond doubt that it had stopped killing people, Sinn Féin could enter normal political life. If this ever happened — and merely to describe this revolution is to sense what a distant prospect it is — many politicians would find such intimacy with men and women so contaminated by past murder unpleasant. But democracy cannot always protect finer feelings. If the IRA did put down its weapons, no government could find a shred of justification for excluding a law-abiding Sinn Féin from mainstream politics, however distasteful the reality.

But political domestication is not what Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin have in mind when they talk peace with John Hume of the SDLP, or when they accuse the British government of "trying to keep the lid on an erupting peace". They have in mind a negotiating process which offers the IRA some reward for its long years in the shadows. They have in mind a gesture from London which makes clear that the connection between Britain and Northern Ireland is on the way to being broken. A Sinn Féin with nothing to show for its grisly conservatism but disgraced ghettos and broken lives will collect few votes. Its candidates do not flourish in the Republic.

Does John Major intend to persuade the IRA to lay down its arms by offering an inducement that weakens the union? He has given no sign of this. But if he is to speak a language that can be understood throughout Ireland, he must talk peace. Sympathy and yearning for any moves towards peace — no matter how nebulous their foundations — runs deep and strong in the Republic. The Dublin government burnt its fingers when its ministers seemed to sideline the Hume-Adams peace talks too brusquely.

Mr Major's performance on Northern Ireland should be judged not by what he says but by what he does. Lord Tebbit would like a policy which offers no new hope. Ireland already has enough politicians offering nothing.

Set principle aside?

LORD MELCHETT, the distinctly green-blooded Labour peer, is keeping an uncharacteristically low profile over his latest agricultural initiative. Not surprising really, given that the latest gossip among the East Anglian farming mafia is that the executive director of Greenpeace has abandoned organic farming on his Norfolk estate.

Together with other parts of his 750-acre estate, the organic acreage is to be entered into the controversial set-aside scheme, under which farmers are paid substantial sums of money for growing nothing.

While the environmental benefits of following land are arguable, the organic lobby is most unhappy with Melchett's move, particularly as Greenpeace campaigns for 20 per cent of British farms to be organic.

Bill Stirling, deputy chairman of the Organic Growers' Association, discovered Melchett's plans when compiling a dossier of farmers reverting to conventional methods because of lack of government

help. "I am very disappointed," says Stirling. Melchett is "not talking" about his switch in farming policy, according to a Greenpeace spokeswoman. "He is up to his neck in dealing with Greenpeace issues."

But the old Etonian peer seems determined to make it honourable even on the own-goal front. One of his recent acts at Greenpeace has been to launch two prosecutions against ICI — the company founded by his great-grandfather, Alfred Mond.

● O what a tangled tarian we weave. The Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders, both threatened with amalgamation under MoD plans to cut defence spending, have just had some unexpected news. The MoD has placed a £150,000 order for 1,000 new kilts, 189 of which are destined for the two doomed regiments. The MoD, apparently, wants to keep the two infantry regiments up to parade ground standard until they are merged next

year. Douglas Robson, of the Save the Gordons campaign, finds it "odd, but heartening".

Toy time

SO MUCH for political correctness. Golliwogs are in tremendous demand, despite the way they have suffered at the hands of Greenwich Council, which has branded them "racist toys".

The council has caused a storm of protest by refusing to renew the registration certificate of childminder Denna Newton because she has an ancient gollie in her toy collection. But the publicity has backfired on Greenwich's so-called loony left — for one of the few remaining manufacturers is experiencing a run.

"We make about 100 different items and now that people are seeing and being reminded about the gollies, they are the biggest attraction," says Marlene Jeffs of Sweeney Soft Toys in Cornwall. "The publicity is bringing in the customers."

You saw it there

WHAT would Fleet Street do without the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*? Yesterday its reporter Clare Henderson was awarded Scoop of the Year by the London Press Club for her May front-page exclusive of Irene Lamont telling the world how her son had just resigned his job as Chancellor. But while Henderson and her editor Peter Moore were



DIARY

enjoying the plaudits in London, back in Grimsby another exclusive was running in the lunchtime editions: Graham Taylor's resignation.

Once again the scoop showed the importance of the family network. According to Patrick Oter, assistant editor of the *Telegraph*, news of the England football manager's resignation, came from a "member of Graham Taylor's family, who used to work for this company. His identity is a closely guarded secret as he rather seems to have forced Taylor's hand. We're looking forward to going to London next year to collect an award for this one too."

Watch this space

AS IF Ann Clwyd parking her car in a spot reserved for the Speaker was not bad enough,

her front-bench colleague, Harriet Harman, has fallen foul of the Westminster parking authorities. On Monday, she was caught parking in a spot usually reserved for House of Lords staff.

"So this is the new caring Labour party?" said a frustrated parker from the Lords. Harman is defensive. "These are not spaces reserved for the Lords. They're reserved for MPs with special permits. When my office was there I used to park there. I didn't realise you needed special permits to park there now. If any impropriety is alleged, writs will come flying." A second later, Harman was on the telephone again. "There was no row, I promise. And I've now applied for a permit."

Next in the Kew

THE great-granddaughter of Camille Pissarro is to follow in the famous impressionist's brushstrokes — literally. Pissarro's wine bar, next door to London's Kew Gardens, is to commission her to paint a new version of *Fête de Kew*, Pissarro's peaceful rendition of Kew Green on a bank holiday in the summer of 1892.

Léila Pissarro is the fourth generation of the family to paint. "I was brought up for nine years by Camille's youngest son Paulin and I didn't think of anything other than painting," she says. "But this is a fantastic idea if they like my pictures enough."

They do, says the wine bar's Penny Carvoso. "We would have taken one from her four-year-old daughter," she says. "Anything for a genuine Pissarro that we can afford."

Batty casting

NIGEL PLANER, still perhaps best known for playing Neil, the long-haired hippy in the television series *The Young Ones*, is branching out. From next month, Planer (above right) is to appear in the ENO's production of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. The bad news for those who



bought Neil's fine rendition of "Hole in My Shoe", is that Planer will not be singing. He says: "I play the drunken jester Frosch. I come on at the top of the third act and have a little chat with the audience. Traditionally the role is done by a stand-up comedian — Frankie Howard did it about 13 years ago. I think they thought I was suitable because I have done both straight acting and stand-up." But "Hole in My Shoe" probably swung it.



TOO LITTLE TOO SOON

Yesterday's rate cut was a bad augury for the Budget.

In the six months since Kenneth Clarke became Chancellor, his views on economic policy have been mysterious and shrouded. There have been bold promises to champion the cause of industry, brave briefings about bringing common sense to Treasury and Bank of England, but no action, not even the hint of action, until yesterday morning, when he suddenly delivered a totally unexpected half point cut in interest rates.

It would be good to be able to praise this move. The case for lower interest rates has been clear, and vigorously argued here, ever since the danger of a severe recession became apparent in 1990. In truth, however, this action has all the appearance of being misjudged in its magnitude, its timing, and its political implications.

The size of the rate cut was inadequate, as the financial markets confirmed by immediately forecasting another reduction, perhaps as early as next month. Britain needed lower interest rates yesterday morning and it needs them today. Despite the recent smattering of good news on trade and unemployment, the British economy shows no sign of accelerating from the 2 per cent growth rate which was established after sterling left the ERM. The housing market has stalled, investment is static, consumer confidence is lower now than it was last winter, and there is little hope on present trends of reducing the public sector borrowing requirement to a tolerable level through economic growth. Interest rates should have been cut by a full point.

The timing of the rate cut was wrong because it spread unnecessary confusion not only about the Chancellor's Budget plans, but much more seriously, about his entire approach to economic policy. Instead of trying to present the change in interest rates as one component in a carefully balanced package of monetary and fiscal measures, Mr Clarke seemed to be moving, perhaps unconsciously, back to the Treasury orthodoxy of the ERM period — that interest rates belong in one compartment of economic policy labelled "money and exchange rates", while tax and public spending decisions are in another, completely unconnected compartment, called "Budget judgments". This was the thinking that helped to give Britain ERM membership and the £50 billion PSBR.

Finally, there was the political symbolism of yesterday's rate cut. The Treasury announced the City yesterday by announcing that the "precise timing" of the rate cut was decided by the Bank of England, not the Chancellor. This hinted at a major victory for the Bank in its bureaucratic campaign to win more control over monetary policy, a campaign which the Chancellor publicly appeared to oppose only last week.

The argument that a change in interest rates in the Budget might have appeared "political" shows how much headway the Bank has already made in its campaign to take over monetary control. For if it is too "political" for the Chancellor to change interest rates on the day he presents his main annual review of economic policy to parliament, when would a government decision on monetary policy not be deemed "political" by the Bank?

Yesterday's rate cut seemed calculated to maximise confusion and minimise economic results. If, in addition, it turns out to be a portent of a very limited reduction in the public sector borrowing requirement in next week's Budget, Mr Clarke will have made a more serious blunder. If interest rates remain too high and public borrowing remains out of control after this Budget, Mr Clarke will have missed his best opportunity before the next general election to offset substantial reductions in public borrowing with big cuts in interest rates. The lethal combination of inadequate economic growth, dangerously large deficits and needlessly high interest rates will damage Britain's economy for years to come.

SEX ON LINE

Computer pornography must be more effectively restricted

In the early stages of its mass production, computer technology was assumed to be an entirely benign force in modern education. Schools and parents were encouraged to invest quickly in the hardware that would give their children a head start in the high-tech job market of the future. Now, however, the less palatable aspects of the computer revolution are becoming clear. Through their screens, for example, young computer users are gaining access to cheaply available pornography, much of which would be much too strong to be printed legally.

Pornographers have found it easy to exploit the growing network of terminals linked by telephone lines to send obscene material to terminals anywhere in the world. Up to 5,000 moving or still images can be stored on a compact disc and selected by any computer owner linked to one of an growing number of electronic "bulletin boards". Though some of the pictures on sale are as innocent as a seaside postcard, many include graphic representations of explicit sex, rape and sexual torture. Because users can manipulate the material on screen, paedophiles have even been able to superimpose children's faces on the images they see.

Healthy societies must assess the potential abuse of technological change as quickly as they embrace its benefits. It is to the government's credit that it now proposes to regulate this unpleasant trade in the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill. The home affairs select committee has also launched an enquiry into the scope for controls, which will consider the experimental measures already being taken by police and schools. Both initiatives are welcome contributions to a much needed debate.

Regulating electronic material is notoriously difficult. The 1959 Obscene Publications Act, spawned by an age in which most pornography was produced on paper, has proved quite inadequate in the computer era. A limited proportion of obscene computer images are covered by the Children Act or the Video Recording Act; but since the 1959 law does not recognise pictures generated by silicon chip as "published", the vast majority of computer pornographers have evaded prosecution.

The government's legislative ambitions will be constrained by the fact that so much of this material is sent from other countries down international phone lines. Nonetheless, giving police new powers of search, seizure and arrest should help to restrict the growing domestic market. The advertising of mail order pornography in computer magazines should also be banned, and clear penalties introduced for those who profit from its supply. The imminent review of the 1959 act must be comprehensive, to take proper account of more than 30 years of technological innovation.

The successful regulation of the video cassette market in the last decade has shown that prompt action can be effective. But legislation must be matched by cultural change. Parents need to be aware of the impact that hectic technological development is having on the character of childhood. Only a Luddite would deny the benefits that the silicon chip has brought to the classroom and the home. Yet there is a risk that computers, if used unthinkingly, will draw a generation of children away from group activities and personal contact into lonely limbo. Information technology is already an integral part of leisure and education; the debate on its social implications is only beginning.

BAMBOOZLE SCIENCE

Scholar adventurers are usually in the entertainment business

Tim Severin's latest expedition was named after the Chinese navigator, Hsu Fu, who, it is said, was dispatched eastward in the 3rd century BC by his emperor in search of drugs to prolong life. Mr Severin's aim, modest by comparison with that of his predecessor, had been to prove that America was first colonised by a race of mariners who crossed the Pacific Ocean from China.

Today, after a six-month Pacific voyage, the intrepid mariner is instead explaining why he had to abandon his primitive bamboo raft in a storm within 1,000 miles of the American coast. If he is a disappointed man, let him not be downhearted for more than a minute. Success in his voyage would no more have proved the theory than the sinking of his raft disproves it. To suppose otherwise is to confuse adventure with science — almost as dangerous an error as the yearning for eternal youth.

The world needs both adventurers and scientists. Heinrich Schliemann excited public interest in the past by declaring he had gazed upon the face of Agamemnon. Less glamorous professional archaeologists left to make sense of the wonderful shaft-graves he found at Mycenae. The Greek navy's experimental reconstruction of a fifth-century trireme which visited the Thames this summer was a stirring spectacle, raising the hairs on the nape of neck as it turned and charged at Westminster. It answers and

raises interesting questions for scholars about ancient boat-building and naval tactics. But as a scientific witness to what went on at the Battle of Salamis, it is less reliable even than Herodotus.

From Herodotus to curious Sir John Mandeville, who actually claimed to have discovered Hsu Fu's fountain of youth, man has had an insatiable appetite for educational trips. The modern school of scholar adventurers was founded after the war by Thor Heyerdahl, who spent his life sailing the seven seas in replicas of primitive craft, irritating professional anthropologists but delighting the romantic public. Mr Severin has sailed in the wakes of such legendary travellers as St Brendan in a leather curragh, Sinbad of the Sea, Jason, Ulysses, Duke Godfrey de Bouillon (the hero of the First Crusade), and Genghis Khan. As archaeology, his voyages are a load of old rowlocks. As entertainment, they make him a living, and add to the galaxy of nations.

By a new method of studying DNA, American biochemists have just demonstrated scientifically what the bamboo raft set out to prove — that part of the DNA of living American Indians is the same as that of aboriginal peoples in Asia and the Polynesian and Melanesian islands. Science will always be a better provider of provisional truth. But there should be plenty of searoom left for the fun of romance.

Doubtful effects of sanctions on Iraq

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, Your leader of November 18, "Keep the sanctions: if the West holds its nerve, it can wear down Saddam", may be whistling in the wind.

When we were in Baghdad, Quarna in the Marshes, and Basra, in May 1993, George Galloway, MP, Tim Llewellyn, for 25 years Middle East correspondent of the BBC, Riad El-Taher, a fluent Arabic-speaking UK national, and I talked to over 50 Iraqi graduates of British universities, out of earshot. Overwhelmingly, whatever they thought in 1991, after two years of Western sanctions, they were behind the regime. Far from undermining Saddam Hussein, sanctions have solidified support for him.

And, if you witnessed, as we did, lines of desperately sick babies, suffering malnutrition-related disease, one or two of whom expired in your presence at the Saddam hospital in Baghdad and at the Um-Kasr hospital on the Kuwait border, for want of pharmaceuticals from traditional suppliers, you would understand why.

Is, to borrow the phrase from your leader, "increasing popular suffering" an effective instrument of policy? Or a moral one? Britain and the US should cease to manipulate the UN, and allow sanctions to be lifted forthwith.

Yours etc,
TAM DALYELL,
House of Commons
November 18.

From The Ambassador of Kuwait

Sir, Your editorial shows a clear grasp of the nature of Saddam Hussein and his regime — as many Kuwaitis learned at the ultimate cost.

The recent incursions into our country, combined with Saddam's statement through his mouthpiece, *Al-Jumhouriya*, of November 17 that he still intends to "liberate Kuwait", give the lie to his somewhat feeble gestures to humanitarianism. The excuse given for the incursions is that Iraqi farmers are protesting against the loss of their land; the incursions contravene the decisions of the UN Iraq-Kuwait boundary demarcation commission, and Kuwait has offered to compensate those same farmers. Saddam and his regime do not even submit an excuse for their disgraceful treatment of their own people.

We are heartened by the statement in the Queen's Speech that Her Majesty's government "will work for full Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions". Such compliance is essential for the whole region.

At a time when there is great hope for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, the Iraqi regime represents the single most destabilising influence in the area.

Yours faithfully,
KHALED AL-DUWAIKAN,
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait,
46 Queen's Gate, SW7.

No Oxbridge mafia

From Dr Diego Gambetta

Sir, In his article entitled "The dons and Don Corleone" (Weekend, November 13) about my book, *The Sicilian Mafia: the business of private protection*, Andy Martin frivolously and gratuitously misleads your readers.

My book draws no comparison between Oxbridge and Cosa Nostra. Martin seeks to establish links between *mafiosos* dons and academic dons that are either extravagant (as if he were to compare ants and elephants) or generic (threats and ostracism can be found in any institution). The differences are infinitely more dramatic than the similarities and cannot be reduced to a suggestion that in Oxbridge "protection is a by-product".

Martin also misrepresents a fact: the building contractor I interviewed was murdered not after a few days, as he implies, but after four years in a clearly unrelated incident.

Yours faithfully,
DIEGO GAMBETTA,
University of Oxford,
Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Research,
Barnet House,
Wellington Square, Oxford,
November 15.

First foodie?

From Mr David Kemp

Sir, I was intrigued to note that in his critique on November 18 of *A May of Passion: The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh* by Stephen Coote, Dr Rowse comments:

Of course Raleigh did not conspire against him [James I], but he was involved in his friend Cobham's conspiracy, with the idea of spilling the beans to the king and so currying favour.

The thought of Sir Walter being the forerunner of Indian restaurants in England, rather than restricting himself merely to potatoes and tobacco, is rather engaging.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. KEMP,
The Pound House, Laughton,
Nr Lewes, East Sussex,
November 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Police questioning and court justice

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The exclusion of Mr Heron's taped confession in the Nikki Allan murder trial (report, leading article and letter, November 23) should not be ascribed to any idiosyncrasy of the well respected trial judge. When a man is arrested and questioned it is natural for interviewing officers to proceed on the assumption that he is guilty.

The presence of a defence solicitor is often of no protection to the person being questioned. Academic research (*Criminal Law Review*, March 1993, p16) has shown that solicitors in such circumstances often do not intervene to try to prevent bullying or oppressive questioning.

Less than a year ago the Court of Appeal, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice, quashed murder convictions in the case of *Paris and Others*. These were based upon a confession elicited by oppressive questioning of a man whose solicitor was present throughout but (in the words of the court) sat "passively through this travesty of an interview" [1993, vol 97, *Criminal Appeal Reports*, p104].

Such cases make the government's decision, stated in the Queen's Speech, effectively to abolish the right of silence (report, November 19) all the more regrettable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
2 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4,
November 23.

From Mr K. W. Lidstone

Sir, While I do not disagree with the views of Mr Edwards (letter, November 23), it is arguable that the conduct of the police in the Nikki Allan case was not oppressive within the meaning of that term in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, though the confession might have been correctly excluded under the heading of unreliability.

"Oppression" is partly defined by section 76(8) of the Act to include "torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and the use or threat of violence (whether or not amounting to torture)". In *R v Fulling* (1987) the Court of Appeal held that it should be given the ordinary dictionary definition and quoted the *OED*: "the exercise of authority or power in a burdensome, harsh or wrongful manner; unjust or cruel treatment of subjects, inferiors, etc."

In deceiving the suspect in the Nikki Allan case and pressurising him the police might have induced an unreliable confession.

The Home Office and the police have made a start to ensure that interrogation is conducted fairly and effectively. The government can now play its part by clearing up confusion over what is or is not oppressive conduct.

The present test is flawed and oppression must be fully defined, but narrowly, so that confessions obtained by such conduct can justifiably

be excluded, regardless of their truth. Greater emphasis must then be placed on their reliability.

Evidence which points to the truth of the confession is not admissible. It follows that a truthful confession can be excluded as unreliable. Where there is evidence which suggests that it might be unreliable because of the manner in which it was obtained the prosecution should be permitted to adduce evidence of the truth of the confession. This should include facts discovered.

This could provide the corroboration which many argue ought to be a requirement of the admissibility of a confession. Such a reform might have led to the same result in the Nikki Allan case and would be a welcome clarification of the law.

Yours faithfully,
KEN LIDSTONE,
The University of Sheffield,
Faculty of Law,
PO Box 598, Crookesmoor Building,
Conduit Road, Sheffield 10.

From Mr C. J. G. White

Sir, The statement by a representative of the Law Society that police interviewers ought to have compulsory training (report, November 23, early editions) is not going to assist solicitors such as those in our local duty scheme who daily attend police cells and interview rooms to look after suspects. Some solicitors themselves could do with better training.

Before attending an interview duty solicitors should find out whether the only evidence likely to convict a client will be his own confession. They should then advise the client to remain silent.

For the solicitors' profession to use the Heron case as an excuse to mount a verbal assault on the police sounds somewhat out of place.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. G. WHITE,
(Administrator, Bridport Local Duty Solicitor Committee),
Milne and Lyall (solicitors),
Oxford House, 33 West Street,
Bridport, Dorset,
November 23.

From Ms Anne Molyneux

Sir, Mr Heron's acquittal has not, as you say (leading article, November 23), "made the law look an ass". This acquittal has shown that even the most unpopular of defendants in a case where public opinion demands a conviction has the chance of a fair trial. It is a triumph for justice.

It is his prosecution in the face of insufficient evidence, the questionable nature of his interrogation and the refusal of the world to acknowledge him as wronged which makes the law look an ass.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE MOLYNEUX,
Masons (solicitors),
30 Aylesbury Street, ECI,
November 23.

The objection to Lord Scarman's proposal in respect of privacy is the same as that to the more general campaign to enshrine a bill of rights in English law. Both would undermine the law-making supremacy of the elected Parliament (whose statutes can be and often are repealed) in favour of the say-so of unelected judges.

If there is to be legislation on privacy, let Parliament do it and make precision its purpose.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BUTT,
22 Denewood Road, Highgate, N6,
November 17.

From Mr T. H. Richardson

Sir, With great respect to Lord Scarman, article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights is too narrow. It protects privacy only in a domestic context and fails to protect it in the commercial and professional fields. Furthermore, the right of free expression already exists at common law, subject only to the rights of others, as protected by the laws relating to defamation, so that legislation incorporating article 10 would seem to be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. RICHARDSON,
White Gables, Swanby,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire,
November 17.

School bus safety

From The Honorary Secretary, Medical Officers of Schools Association

Sir, This association represents school doctors in both the maintained and the independent education sectors and for several years has been campaigning to improve school-vehicle safety.

We have found a staunch parliamentary ally in Miss Emma Nicholson, MP, but regrettably, despite our efforts, the government, or more precisely the Department of Transport, has failed to acknowledge that there is a problem.

Amongst our many concerns are that seatbelts are not compulsory in school vehicles, that the vehicles themselves are not marked clearly enough, that there is no requirement for fire extinguishers or first-aid kits to be carried, and that often the driver, be it a minibuss, coach or public service bus, is the only adult present.

Your leader on November 19, "Safer minibusses", deals cogently with the problems of the licensing of drivers and their competence to drive, and this association would agree wholeheartedly with your comments.

The tragedy on the M40 in the early hours of last Thursday morning (reports, later editions, November 18, November 19) shocked everyone but it is only one in a long line of accidents involving school vehicles; I can recall two other incidents in the last six months resulting in loss of life.

We acknowledge that any changes in the law will probably lead to increased costs for schools and voluntary organisations but the lives of many schoolchildren and young people are at risk if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HARRINGTON,
Honorary Secretary,
Medical Officers of Schools Association,
North End Surgery,
High Street, Buckingham,
November 21.

Backlash against 'politically correct'

From Mr John Argenti

Sir, You report (November 22) a campaign by a group of Conservative MPs to halt the wave of political correctness sweeping through British institutions.

One of the world's leading publishers has recently published my book on the governance of organisations. At one point in it I wished to imply that a certain management practice was outdated, so I deliberately used the old-fashioned word "foreman"; this was deleted by the editor and the word "foreperson" suggested. When I furiously re-deleted this, the editor selected the modern word "supervisor" — thus erasing my original nuance!

Elsewhere I wanted to say "unusually for rapacious Man, his organisations are generally benevolent" but the word "Man" was disallowed and the sentence became "unusually for rapacious society..." thus robbing the phrase of any meaning.

I used the time-honoured phrase "he who pays the piper calls the tune". Out! It has to be "the person who pays the piper..." I used the expression "helping old ladies across the road" to signify the traditional style of community policing; it was changed to "helping old people..." I wanted to use "businessman" to impart an Arthur Daley flavour to a sentence — it was changed to "executive", which conveys nothing of the sort. I was not allowed "widows", "temptress", "gentlemanly", "coachman's hat". My readers will be infuriated by the obsessive repetition, even in the same sentence, of his "and hers".

I have to say that I bitterly resent (a) the weeks of my time it took to negotiate over these absurdities, (b) the manner in which my book was hijacked as a vehicle for the childish feminism of the editors, and (c) that any publisher should, instead of upholding the richness and traditions of our language, so spinelessly surrender it up for castration.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARGENTI,
Pettsbridge Lodge,
Woodbridge, Suffolk,
November 23.

From Mr Alan Chance

Sir, So a playgroup in Lewisham will not be celebrating Christmas (report, November 23). The politically correct guidelines talk of an "ideal" world, where many religions and cultures are given equal weight.

From a child's point of view, this would be far from ideal. The point about Christianity, and indeed most other religions, is that we are given clear guidance, a single set of rules, a single example to follow. Christianity gives us one God to worship, one Christ to follow. In the Christian year, we celebrate one life. There is one birth and one death. All this is easy for a child to understand from the age of about five, perhaps younger.

If, instead, we conceive a working party of several gods and prophets, each with his or her own traditions and beliefs (some of them contradictory), children will be confused.

Surely it is better to reinforce the central role of Christianity (or another faith where appropriate) and teach tolerance of other beliefs as a central tenet of our various religions and of our society.

So the message to the playgroups is that there is no composite religion. Older children can and should study "comparative religion", but don't confuse the infants, don't deny them the simple certainties, don't deny them carols and nativity plays, throw the guidelines out of the window and encourage them all, as children of many faiths but citizens of a Christian country, to join in and have a Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CHANCE,
38 Hanover Gardens, SE11,
November 23.

From Mr Peter Browne

Sir, Any local councils which, in their anxiety to be politically correct, are debating whether to label public lavatories "Men" and "Womens" could take a tip from Chelsea. There, such knotty problems are neatly sidestepped by the notice: "This convenience is staffed by persons of either sex".

Yours sincerely,
PETER BROWNE,
Ferrybank, Riverside,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
November 23.

From Mr Roy Dean

Sir, A "tonorially challenged" Elton John (Diary, November 20)? Hardly, the pedantically correct meaning of the term is "short of a haircut", i.e. with long shaggy hair. *Capillary* doesn't seem quite right. What about *crinial*?

I suggest *thermally challenged* might describe the poor and elderly who will be deprived of adequate heating this winter when the government puts VAT on fuel.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DEAN,
14 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent,
November 22.

From The Reverend C. J. Meyrick

Sir, Damn "political correctness". Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN MEYRICK,
The Rectory, Park Road,
Tisbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
November 23.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL H. R. B. FOOTE, VC

Major-General H. R. B. Foote, VC, CB, DSO, tank commander in the Western Desert in 1942, died on November 22 aged 88. He was born on December 5, 1904.



BOB FOOTE won his Victoria Cross for his courage and superb handling of the tanks at his disposal in the fierce fighting of the Battle of Gazala in May and June 1942. It was a searing struggle, at the outset of which Rommel appeared to have overplayed his hand and consigned his Afrika Corps to destruction. Yet, by effectively concentrating his slender resources against British tanks which were thrown in piecemeal, Rommel turned the tables at the end of a fortnight of bloody fighting. The result was the headlong retreat of the British Eighth Army into Egypt and the humiliating loss of Tobruk with 35,000 men taken prisoner.

Foote was commanding the 7th Royal Tank Regiment, as part of the 32nd Army Tank Brigade, equipped with Matildas and Valentines, when, at the outset of the Gazala battle, Rommel swept round the open desert flank to attack the British defensive positions from the rear. However, as a result of encountering strong armoured units, some of which had been recently equipped with the superior American Grant tank, Rommel's onward rush became bogged down and he found himself trapped between the fortified Gazala line and a British minefield. As the British rained bombs down on his position in the following days it became known as "the Cauldron". Rommel seemed doomed.

The Eighth Army commander General Ritchie also tried to annihilate the Afrika Corps with attacks from the north and east. Foote's regiment took part in the northern thrust to clear the western end of the Sidra ridge. Early in

the action, he was forced to abandon his command tank when it was hit, and while dashing across the open to reach another tank he was wounded in the neck by a machinegun bullet. Despite excruciating pain, he refused to get to safety inside the second tank and continued to exercise command, standing on it outside its turret. When that tank too was hit and disabled, he took to his feet, redeploying his surviving tanks with great skill and encouraging their crews until darkness put an end to the fighting for that day.

Exactly a week later, at the turning point of the battle on June 13, when Rommel was trying to encircle the Guards Brigade in the Knightsbridge Box with both his Panzer divisions, Foote arrived at the critical moment. Leading the remnants of his own regiment, combined with those of 42nd

Royal Tank Regiment, he was in time to stop 15th Panzer Division cutting the Guards' withdrawal route and to hold it open until darkness enabled them to escape.

This took place amid some of the most vicious fighting of the desert campaign. Going in to the attack on the Knightsbridge escarpment the first wave of Foote's tanks was almost immediately destroyed. But he reorganised the remaining armoured units, dismounting and walking from one tank to another to encourage the crews. In addition Foote stationed his own tank in front of the others and made himself plainly visible on its turret, to hearten the other crews. Such a magnificent personal effort could do nothing, alas, to alter the overall balance of the battle. This was now clearly lost and on June 14 Ritchie abandoned the Gazala line and retreated towards the Egyptian frontier.

Foote's own luck ran out a week later. After the end of the Gazala battle the remnants of 32nd Army Tank Brigade — now down to 70 tanks — were withdrawn into Tobruk. When, on June 20, Rommel in a surprise attack overcame the town's defences and captured the port, Foote and his adjutant managed to escape and hid in a cave, hoping to get away by sea. However, they were captured and sent to an Italian prisoner of war camp near Milan. Foote soon escaped and joined the Italian partisans in the mountains. They eventually engineered a safe crossing for him into Switzerland and then back to England.

Henry Robert Bowdren Foote was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Foote, Royal Artillery, and was educated at Bedford School before being commissioned into the Royal Tank Corps in 1925. Most of his pre-war service was in India. At the outbreak of war he was at the War Office. He

became GSO 1 of the 1st Cavalry Division (re-named 10th Armoured Division after mechanisation) in Palestine in 1941 and took part in defeating the Rashid Ali rebellion in Iraq and in the invasion of Syria, earning the DSO before taking over 7th Royal Tank Regiment in the Western Desert before the Battle of Gazala, in which he made his name.

He was a modest self-effacing man with a keen sense of humour and quiet determination. He possessed a balanced mix of command, staff and technological abilities, and his career was centred upon tanks and tank warfare.

At the end of the war he was Brigadier, Royal Armoured Corps, Middle East and in 1947 reverted in rank to lieutenant-colonel to command the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. His experience of handling tanks in battle led to his appointment as head of the Automotive Wing of the Fighting Vehicle Proving Establishment at Chobham in 1948.

After commanding 7th Armoured Brigade, 1949-50, and 11th Armoured Division, 1951-53, he became Director-General Fighting Vehicles in 1953. He was, from 1955 to 1958, Director Royal Armoured Corps in the War Office. In retirement from 1958, he was a founder member and for some years chairman of the Trustees of the Tank Museum at Bovington. A keen golfer he was an active supporter of the Ironsides Golf Club. Foote was amused to have been selected to appear on *This Is Your Life*. In 1959 he started a second career as military adviser to Leyland for ten years.

He married Anita Flint Howard after his escape from the Italy in 1944. They had no children. After being widowed in 1970, he married Mrs Audrey Mary Ashwell in 1981. She survives him.

HIS HON SIR JAMES MISKIN

His Honour Sir James Miskin, QC, former Recorder of London, died from Alzheimer's disease on November 21 aged 68. He was born on March 11, 1925.

JAMES MISKIN was a wide-ranging Common Law advocate who was said to have been surprised by his promotion in 1975 to be Recorder of London, the Old Bailey's senior judge. He had not been Common Sergeant, the Recorder's deputy. Some saw the hand of the late Mr Justice Melford Stevenson in his appointment.

Despite Miskin's soft tones on the Bench — he was informally called "Whispering Jim" — he had strong, outspoken views which were always clearly stated. At his happiest, he was a charming, witty after-dinner speaker, playing the Recorder's traditional role in the City as its next spokesman after the Lord Mayor.

But 15 long years at the Bailey took their toll before his eventual retirement. His tenure coincided with a wearing run of demanding murder and rape cases from 1975 to 1990. Judicial manpower struggled with an escalating rate of prosecutions. He was critical of Treasury cash limits. He was also often in the headlines with strong denunciations of deviants, sharp calls for executive action, and widely varying sentences, especially in rape cases where he was attacked for inconsistency. Sadly, failing powers towards the end led to offensive, off-the-cuff remarks out of court which inevitably won him tabloid notoriety.

The Miskins are a Kentish family with Huguenot antecedents. James William Miskin's father was general manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The young Miskin was educated at Haileybury and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he was senior Heath Harrison Exhibitioner. In between, he saw war service in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was called to the Bar in 1951. He cut a dashing figure as a young barrister in chambers, arriving early rather than leaving late.

He developed a broad Common Law practice, angled in favour of family work and medical negligence. In 1967 he took silk after three years on the Bar Council, renewed

sentences. He attacked the "revolving behaviour" of a stepfather in 1987 who indecently assaulted his stepdaughter, but gave him a term of only six years. At the same time he called for longer sentences in such cases.

Towards the end of his stint at the Old Bailey, and immediately after, he became increasingly outspoken. He sought the return of hanging for premeditated murder, called for a higher age limit of 25 for jurors and attacked the Treasury's failure to fund prison expansion. An after-dinner reference to blacks as "nig-nogs" attracted condemnation. A similar phrase, "murderous stinks" in relation to a current case he was trying led to formal censure by the Court of Appeal for apparent bias.

He was a keen tennis player, golfer and angler. From 1972 to 1975 he was both chairman of the Board of Discipline at the LSE and an appeals steward for the British Boxing Board of Control. He was twice married and survived by his second wife, Sheila, whom he married in 1980, and by two sons and two daughters from his first marriage.



MURIEL LADY DOWDING



Muriel Lady Dowding, founder of Beauty Without Cruelty, died on November 20 aged 85. She was born on March 22, 1908.

WHEN Muriel Lady Dowding started the cosmetics and fashion charity Beauty Without Cruelty in 1959, she was pilloried by the press and portrayed as a crank. But gradually, as the political climate changed, her ideas concerning alternatives to vivisection in the testing of cosmetics began to enter the mainstream. She was aided in all this by her husband, Lord Dowding, who, as the director of the Battle of Britain and an active member of the House of Lords, was able to gain the ear of many in Parliament.

Muriel Dowding's methods of drawing attention to the cause were just as energetic as her husband's though less orthodox. She rebuked women in the press for their dependence on scent produced from

civet, face creams made from whale fat and shoes made from leather. In the days when such products were the only ones readily available. Her remarks about the understanding of animals — she claimed once to have rid her house of a plague of silverfish by politely asking them to leave — induced a spate of requests for her to come and talk to readers' earwigs. She talked dreamily of a time when "no one will cut grass, animals will all be vegetarian and everything will be as nature intended." And yet, by sheer persistence, she managed to make many of her ideas stick.

Muriel Albino, as she was born, had an unconventional childhood and was heavily influenced by the family's interest in Theosophy, by a psychic grandmother and by her mother, who claimed to be a healer. She married her first husband, Max Whitling, in 1935, but was widowed when, as an RAF bomber pilot, his

plane was shot down over Norway in 1943. Her second husband, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, asked her to lunch after claiming to have been in touch with Whitling through a spiritualist medium. They were eventually married in 1951.

Lady Dowding's interest in animal rights gathered pace in the late 1950s. It was then that she heard a first-hand report of the agonising death, by harpoon, of a pregnant blue whale. Later, at a spiritualist meeting, she realised how many so-called sensitive women were wearing furs. She started Beauty Without Cruelty with two like-minded vegetarian friends in 1959 and went on to buy a shop in Chiltern Street which stocked a range of simulated furs, non-leather bags and shoes, and skin care products.

Though she professed she was "not at all the Queen Bee type — or even a committee woman" and was said to loathe public speaking, Muriel Dowding found herself in the vanguard of the emerging animal rights movement, and spent the next two decades addressing meetings across the country. She was also at one time chairman of the National Anti-Vivisection Society and a vice-president of the RSPCA. However, in 1981 she unexpectedly resigned from the presidency of the Beauty Without Cruelty Charity, after some acrimonious exchanges with the trustees. Their argument was over a large bill for expenses claimed by Lady Dowding's son after his mission to India on behalf of the organisation.

Lord Dowding, who was an easy convert to Muriel's various causes, frequently spoke on animal welfare in the House of Lords and mounted an anti-vivisection campaign in the 1950s. When Rab Butler, then home secretary, told him that no government would act on vivisection unless the medical profession agreed, he and Muriel set up the Fund for Humane Research. Her autobiography, *Beauty — Not the Beast*, which included some horrific pictures of animal experiments, appeared in 1980.

Lord Dowding died in 1970 and she is survived by a son from her first marriage.

BILL BIXBY

Bill Bixby, actor, best known for his performance in *The Incredible Hulk*, died from cancer on November 21 aged 59. He was born in San Francisco on January 29, 1934.



BILL BIXBY rose to television stardom in the late 1970s, when he was cast as the human half of a destructive green monster in a Jekyll and Hyde inspired fantasy called *The Incredible Hulk*.

Bixby played the part of a well-meaning scientist, Dr David Banner, whose metabolism is irreversibly altered after an accidental overdose of gamma rays. Thereafter, whenever he is made angry (something which he tried to avoid but which invariably happened twice in each of the 86 episodes), Banner metamorphoses into the Hulk, his eyes turning an eerie white, his clothes ripping apart from the force of his rapidly expanding body and his skin turning a vivid green. As the Hulk (played by an ex-weightlifter called Lou Ferrigno), Banner is superhumanly strong and can send people flying through the air from the shock wave created by just clapping his hands, but he is endowed with the mind, temper and speech of a child.

The ludicrousness of the scenario did not stop the

producers from lacing the programme with some heavy-handed social messages aimed at adult audiences: "We deal with subjects such as child-beating, teenage alcoholism and psychosurgery," Bixby said, stressing that unlike other monsters "the Hulk has to relate to other people and see the difference between good and evil". But the millions of children who tuned in to the programme every week, and who made up the bulk of its audience, were immune to all this. They loved the green monster as a simple cartoon character, and spent millions on Hulk T-shirts, masks and action toys — turning Bixby, in the process, into a star.

Wilfred Bailey Bixby began his career as a hotel clerk and pool attendant at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, before launching himself into modelling. He went on to make promotional shorts for car companies in Detroit and then returned to Hollywood as a straight actor. Parts followed in such films as *Lone Wolf and Three* (1962), *Imma Lu Douce* (1963) and *The Apple Dumpling Gang* (1974).

But it was on the small screen that Bixby really found fame. In the early 1960s he made 112 episodes of *My Favorite Martian*, followed by parts in *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* and *The Magician*. After *The Incredible Hulk*, Bixby became irritated by the pressures of celebrity, though he continued to act in television films and starred in a two-hour *Incredible Hulk* special in 1987. Instead, he turned increasingly to directing, his biggest success being the recent teenage series, *Blossom*, made for NBC.

Bixby was known as a near recluse and workaholic within the profession and had an unhappy personal life. His first wife, the actress Brenda Benet, committed suicide in 1982, a year after their son had died from a throat infection. His second wife, Laura, left him after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991. He is survived by his third wife, Judith, whom he married last month.

PERSONAL COLUMN

UNDER THE CLOCK

AMERICANS SEEK: Information and marriage with British ladies. 1990. Good contacts. Good US. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

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NEWS

Rate cut disappoints the City

■ Kenneth Clarke delivered the interest rate cut that had always been expected as a sweetener to deficit-cutting measures in the Budget. But the move was greeted with disappointment. The half-point cut takes the base rate to 5.5 per cent, the lowest for 16 years. But industry and financial markets were concerned that it took "full account" of the Budget. Page 1

Croats wire up human bombs

■ One of the three men cried "Don't shoot, we are Muslim soldiers" as he stumbled unnaturally up the slope towards the Bosnian trenches. The cause of his hunched gait became apparent: mines had been strapped to his chest and back, rope bound his hands and wire ran from his torso back towards the Croat militia positions. A further depth of depravity and horror had been reached in Bosnia's war. Pages 1, 13

Ulster blow

John Major's Northern Ireland peace initiative suffered a body blow when the Ulster Unionists virtually urged him to call off his attempts to secure an agreement with Dublin. Page 1, 11

Taylor resigns

Graham Taylor accepted the blame for England's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup Finals in the United States by resigning as national team manager. Page 1

Best and worst

Rachel Whiteread pulled off a unique art double: she won the Tate Gallery's Turner Prize for the best exhibition of contemporary art and a spoof rival award for the worst body of work produced last year. Page 1

Cold comfort

The prime minister announced that cold weather payments would be increased as part of the compensation package for VAT on fuel that is to be unveiled in the Budget next week. Page 2

Gangland mistake

The man who shot dead two Department of Transport inspectors in a gangland-style killing probably mistook them for someone else. Pages 1, 7

Widening gap

The cost of widening congested motorways has increased by 78 per cent to more than £6 billion and the programme is slipping behind schedule, the National Audit Office said. Page 8

A matter of life and death

■ So many soccer fans wish their ashes scattered on the hallowed turf of their home club that the Football Association has issued guidelines to groundsmen on how best to dispose of the devoted departed without harming the grass. They recommend just a sprinkling, preferably on the side of the pitch and opposite the fan's favourite spot. Page 3

War on crime

A four-pronged approach to beating rising crime was outlined by the home secretary, Michael Howard said that it was necessary to take action "right across the board". Page 10

Mossad revenge

Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, systematically hunted and killed all the Palestinians responsible for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, General Aharon Yariv, the architect of the hit team, said on BBC TV. Page 12

Steel dispute

Britain and Germany are embroiled in a fierce row over steel industry subsidies on the eve of talks in Bonn between John Major and several cabinet ministers. Page 11

Harrier pilot rescued

An RAF Harrier pilot was rescued from a remote part of northern Iraq in a covert American helicopter operation, after he had been ejected. Page 14

Chinese warned

Ma Yinchu, the Chinese ambassador to Britain, was summoned to the Foreign Office to be told that time is running out for Hong Kong negotiations. Page 15

College rating

Leading sixth-form colleges outstripped the performance of all but the most selective schools in the first league tables of results for the newly-independent further education sector. Page 9



Richard Wilson, the actor, at a rally in the Victoria Palace Theatre, London, campaigning against proposed arts spending cuts. Page 2

BUSINESS

Levitt case: The trial of Roger Levitt and three co-defendants ended after only 13 days when Mr Levitt and Mark Reed, his former managing director, changed their pleas to admit a charge of fraudulent trading. Page 23

Books: The agreement that fixes the price of books is to be reviewed by the Office of Fair Trading following complaints from booksellers that it acts against the public interest. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 barely reacted to the interest rate cut, falling 1.3 to 3069.3. Sterling's index rose from 81.0 to 81.4 after rising from \$1.4760 to \$1.4808 and from DM2.5173 from DM2.5262. Page 26

SPORT

Motor rallying: For the third successive year Colin McRae, of Scotland, was forced to retire on the third day of the RAC Rally. Malcolm Wilson, of Northumberland, had moved up into third place by the end of the day. Page 40

Snooker: Terry Griffiths took seven hours to beat Dean Reynolds 9-6 and reach the quarter-finals of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship at Preston. The first eight frames took 253 minutes to complete. Page 40

Tennis: The Lawn Tennis Association is to invest almost £6million on the installation of clay courts, a surface unfamiliar to most British players. Page 41

FEATURES

Paying for God: "Perhaps the only way forward is to say you can only belong to a church if you pay a subscription." Rachel Kelly on how much parishioners should put on the plate. Page 16

Auschwitz II: Unlike the main Auschwitz camp, which has been carefully shaped into a museum, Auschwitz-Birkenau has been left untouched. Roger Boyes on the preservation campaign. Page 17

MEDIA

Super cards: A new phenomenon is about to burst upon Britain's supermarket shoppers: loyalty schemes, designed to keep them from straying to rivals. Page 30

ARTS

Schedule supreme: Tonight, millions of people will watch what Marcus Platin decides. Platin is ITV's new network director, his declared mission to "kill" BBC's audience figures. He is none too keen on people watching Channel 4, either. Page 33

Master actor: In Edinburgh, Brian Cox is in superb form in the title role of Ibsen's *The Master Builder*, as the Royal Lyceum's new regime gets into its stride. Page 34

Taxing shift: 10,000 people will lose their jobs, and innumerable specialist publishers will go out of business. That is what the book trade is predicting if the Chancellor imposes VAT. Page 35

TV LISTINGS

The story behind the collapse of Asil Nadir's Polly Peck empire, and the search for nearly £2 billion, is told in *Unusual Transactions* (BBC2 8pm). Page 43

OPINION

Too little too soon

If interest rates remain too high and public borrowing remains out of control after this Budget, Mr Clarke will have missed his best opportunity before the general election to offset substantial reductions in public borrowing with big cuts in interest rates. Page 19

Sex on line

There is a risk that computers, if used unthinkingly, will draw a generation of children away from group activities and personal contact into lonely limbo. Page 19

Bamboozle science

As archaeology, Tim Severin's voyages are a load of old rocks. As entertainment, they make him a living, and add to the gaiety of nations. Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

A decade of abuse of public administration has reached a crescendo. Antagonism to bureaucracy is universal. If Sir Humphrey is for the chop, a whole nation will apparently cheer his path. Page 18

ALAN COREN

First there is the rasping slew of braking tyres, then the clunk of mutually indenting coachwork, next the poignant clatter of a hubcap rolling wondrously away, and, finally, after a bit, the oaths and squeals of recriminative rage. It is snowing in Cricklewood. Page 18

LETTERS

The absurdity of being politically correct all the time. Page 19

THE WEEK

It seems inevitable that China, as its economy continues to develop and expand, must in time adopt a more open if still less than fully liberal political system. The United States should do all that it can to influence that trend. — *Los Angeles Times*

If China begins to respond substantively to America's main concerns, relations will surely warm. But by rejecting the President's outstretched hand, Beijing once again undermined its supporters. — *The New York Times*

Treating China as a responsible player on the world scene is clearly premature. — *Washington Times*

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Big bad Wolf

■ Naomi Wolf is the prophet of "power feminism", in which women are no longer seen as victims. Victoria Glendinning takes a sceptical look at her new book

Jaws of a dilemma

■ Far from improving with better dental care, children's teeth seem to be getting worse. Why?

Stations of the space age

■ Europe's top architects have a new hobby: playing with trains. From Waterloo to Lyons, stations are being built with dazzling ingenuity. Marcus Binney looks at the renaissance of railway architecture



Victoria Wicks, of *Drop the Dead Donkey* which shared one of Britain's six television Emmy awards with *Absolutely Fabulous* Pages 3, 33

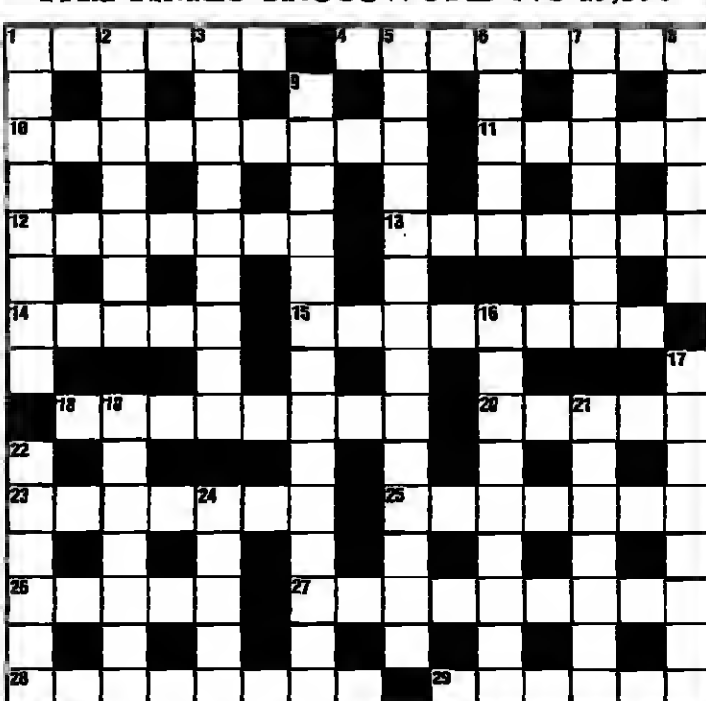


Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister, pleaded with party leaders to support his austerity budget and stem a run on the lira Page 12



Susan Gooch, who was freed on two years' probation after falsely accusing a colleague of rape following a night of animal lust Page 5

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,396



ACROSS

- 1 Copper suggestive in office of junior minister (6).
- 4 Architectural ornament of a prison like this? (8).
- 10 Longing for rolling green seas (9).
- 11 The Herald's read, we hear (5).
- 12 Driver's top gear (hardly touching bottom) (3-4).
- 13 Small bone in ear is close to fracture (7).
- 14 Undershirt a match? (5).
- 15 Firm bound to take university group (8).
- 18 Strange standard of behaviour during an unending good time (8).
- 20 Dependant's reluctance to work? (5).
- 23 Agencies make Foreign Office cross? (7).
- 25 Jumper for universal travel, possibly? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,395

MANAGERS SCRIE
A E U P T E O
I N E X I M I A B L E S O H O
L T R N V P E
B R O A D I N T H E R E A M
A V O E D C I
C L E A N E R F O O T P A D
R N R R
C A S C A D E T E S S E R A
R A O I P C U
S T R A W I N T H E R I N D
E R M R A S I
A N T I E M B A N K I N G
A N N T E L O
C L I E N T B I E T R I A V I E R

DOWN

- 26 Distinctive to put hole in plaster-support (5).
- 27 Crude and rude (9).
- 28 Phoebe sears extras down under (8).
- 29 Top sailor in the hold (6).
- 1 Forcing ice-cover off (8).
- 2 Compliments from judges (7).
- 3 Rough diamond's way of dating a party (9).
- 5 Midwifery terms are ready (4,2,8).
- 6 Drink, for example, in The Rising Sun? (5).
- 7 Bass tuba sacred to the Muses (7).
- 8 Theory and practice (6).
- 9 Erica Cross in speckled woollen fabric? (7,7).
- 16 Moving a cabinet about? (9).
- 17 Siren had reformed in his scandalous playschool (8).
- 19 Save the profit a good deal (7).
- 21 Tours — where, in France, husband drops out of affairs (7).
- 22 It marks a spurious passage in orders about a liberal university (6).
- 24 Hate sitting in a cab, horse-drawn (5).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 30 per cent of the competitors at the 1993 Birmingham regional final of The Times Knockando Crossword Championship.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Dorset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedf, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Pembro	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Lakes	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Dale District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Orkneys, Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathered is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
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Bedf, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Pembro	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Lakes	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Dale District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
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Orkneys, Shetland	726
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Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.	

Weathered is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp. max 8am to 6pm, 10°C (50°F); min 6pm to 8am, 0°C (32°F). Humidity: 60%, 81 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2hr. Sea: mean sea level, 6pm, 1.01m (3.31ft). High tide, 6.30pm.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isle of Scilly, 17°C (63°F). Lowest day temp: Walsby, 1°C (34°F). Highest rainfall: Aberfeldy, 0.17in. Highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 6.9hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 10°C (50°F); min 6pm to 8am, 0°C (32°F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 10°C (50°F); min 6pm to 8am, 0°C (32°F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 1.8hr.

Northern England and Wales

will be cloudy with outbreaks of sleet and snow which should turn to patchy rain. Southwest England will be cloudy with drizzle. The rest of England, after a misty start with freezing fog patches, should brighten but stay cold. Northern Ireland will start wet but become brighter by the afternoon. Outbreaks of rain, sleet and snow will spread across Scotland. Outlook: rain in the north and west; dry elsewhere.

AEROD

MEDIAN: 1 = thunder; 2 = drizzle; 3 = fog; 4 = rain; 5 = sleet; 6 = snow; 7 = hail; 8 = cloud; 9 = rain; 10 = sleet; 11 = snow; 12 = hail; 13 = rain; 14 = sleet; 15 = snow; 16 = hail; 17 = rain; 18 = sleet; 19 = snow; 20 = hail; 21 = rain; 22 = sleet; 23 = snow; 24 = hail; 25 = rain; 26 = sleet; 27 = snow; 28 = hail; 29 = rain; 30 = sleet; 31 = snow; 32 = hail; 33 = rain; 34 = sleet; 35 = snow; 36 = hail; 37 = rain; 38 = sleet; 39 = snow; 40 = hail; 41 = rain; 42 = sleet; 43 = snow; 44 = hail; 45 = rain; 46 = sleet; 47 = snow; 48 = hail; 49 = rain; 50 = sleet; 51 = snow; 52 = hail; 53 = rain; 54 = sleet; 55 = snow; 56 = hail; 57 = rain; 58 = sleet; 59 = snow; 60 = hail; 61 = rain; 62 = sleet; 63 = snow; 64 = hail; 65 = rain; 66 = sleet; 67 = snow; 68 = hail; 69 = rain; 70 = sleet; 71 = snow; 72 = hail; 73 = rain; 74 = sleet; 75 = snow; 76 = hail; 77 = rain; 78 = sleet; 79 = snow; 80 = hail; 81 = rain; 82 = sleet; 83 = snow; 84 = hail; 85 = rain; 86 = sleet; 87 = snow; 88 = hail; 89 = rain; 90 = sleet; 91 = snow; 92 = hail; 93 = rain; 94 = sleet; 95 = snow; 96 = hail; 97 = rain; 98 = sleet; 99 = snow; 100 = hail.

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AEROD

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Would you like to work from this house?

Marcus Plantin has big plans for prime-time ITV

Third year unlucky for Colin McRae

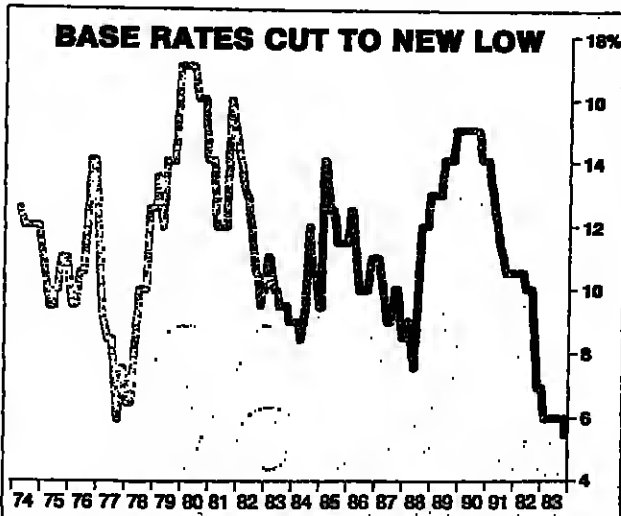
NEWSPAPERS WITH NO INK Media, pages 30, 31

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1993

Doubts set in after rate cut euphoria

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT



THE burst of market euphoria after yesterday's surprising cut in base lending rates was short-lived as dealers expressed disappointment with the modest size of the cut or settled down to wait for another.

The Bank of England announced it was cutting its minimum lending rate by 0.5 of a percentage point to 5.5 per cent, the first time it has signalled a change in base rates since January 26. The major clearing banks soon followed with half-point cuts in base rates, but most building societies held their fire to see what next Tuesday's Budget package will contain and whether any more official interest rate cuts are in the offing.

Treasury and Bank of England officials made it clear that yesterday's cut takes the contents of the Budget into "full account", virtually precluding another half-point cut around Budget time. However, the financial markets continue to believe that further cuts in interest rates are on the way. Short sterling futures, a good guide to thinking on interest rates in the currency markets, are still looking for another half-point cut early

next year. But the size and timing of yesterday's cut, which had been confidently expected on or around Budget day, confused both the City and economists.

At the time of the Bank's announcement, the equity market was sharply lower, the FT-SE 100 index down about 20 points. The market then rallied strongly, swinging in the other direction to stand nearly 20 points higher. Then disappointment with what was regarded as a half-measure by the authorities set in and the FT-SE lost all its gains to end 1.3 lower at 3,069.3.

The UK government bond

market, initially impressed with the rate cut, followed a similar pattern, giving up gains of around a full point at the long end to close only around half a point higher.

Sterling, in contrast, rallied in relief that the authorities had not cut rates more boldly. The pound's trade-weighted index closed at 81.4, compared with Monday's close of 81. Sterling gained nearly a penny to close at DM2.5262.

Opinion was divided on whether the small size of the rate cut implied that taxes will be raised by more or less next week. Gavyn Davies, chief UK economist at Goldman Sachs,

believes the half-point cut will be the last until next spring when Norman Lamont's pre-announced tax increases alone will take £6.7 billion of spending power out of the economy. But the counterpart of caution on the monetary side will, he believes, mean that there will be some tax increases announced next week, but "nothing all that dramatic". The Chancellor may, however, pre-announce tax increases in the style of his predecessor, most coming into effect in later years when the recovery is more firmly established.

Others in the City, however, argued that the base rate cut does not change their view that the Chancellor will have to appear to be tough in the Budget to persuade the financial markets that he is serious about tackling the deficit.

Stephen Lewis, of the London Bond Broking Company, believes that the authorities may be prepared to cut by a full point but are taking it in stages to gauge the reaction of sterling. "This is their main sensitivity," he said. "If sterling were to collapse, say, because backbenchers revolted against a tough package, there would be fears about more inflation in 1994." Most economists, sceptical that sterling would show any inclination to collapse, expect further rate cuts. As European foreign exchange markets have shown, currencies are reacting far more clearly to prospects for growth rather than interest rates.

Such is the obsession of the authorities with the exchange rate, however, that a minority believe that the authorities could cut base rates in the days after the Budget if sterling strongly appreciates.

Many others in the City believe that a strong possibility would be mid-December, with figures expected to show low inflation and subdued retail sales on December 15, and the Bundesbank expected to cut German rates on December 16.

Others, however, believe that the authorities will wait to see how the economy develops next year, particularly after April when the Lamont tax rises hit.

Industrialists tell Clarke 'not to rock the boat'

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIALISTS reacted with a keen sense of frustration to the half-point cut in interest base rates. While welcoming the cut to 5.5 per cent, some called for a further reduction: others warned Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, against any counterbalancing increase in taxes during next Tuesday's Budget.

All business leaders are worried about the lack of investment in industry, and fear the Chancellor will not do enough to encourage it.

At the British Chambers of Commerce, Richard Brown, deputy director, criticised the Chancellor for failing to cut rates by the full one point most leading business organisations, including the Confederation of British Industry,

were demanding. "With inflation running at 1.8 per cent and fiscal tightening inevitable, a bolder move is necessary to maintain consumer demand and avoid strangling the fragile recovery," he said.

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, said the welcome cut was "fully justified" by the recent fall in inflation. The Institute of Directors seemed doubtful the cut would provide the investment stimulus needed. Peter Morgan, director-general, said: "This reduction should certainly not be used as an excuse or a trade off for further tax increases in the Budget."

Graham Mackenzie, president of the EEF engineering sector body, stressed his investment concerns forcefully.

"Recovery cannot be based on another consumer boom," he said. "What we hope for in next Tuesday's Budget is action by the Chancellor to shift resources into investment and infrastructure, rather than consumer spending."

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, called the move "timid" adding: "A full 1 per cent cut is what has been needed for many months."

Voices in the construction industry, which has contracted in the recession, were particularly urgent. Frank Easton, chief executive of Barratt, the housebuilder, urged the Chancellor not to "rock the boat". He called for further measures to sustain and strengthen a slow recovery in the housing market.

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Time not yet ripe, page 27

Levitt admits fraud charge

By JON ASHWORTH

THE trial of Roger Levitt and three co-defendants ended yesterday after only 13 days when Mr Levitt and Mark Reed, his former managing director, changed their pleas to admit a charge of fraudulent trading.

Mr Levitt, 44, and Mr Reed, 40, had previously denied a joint, single charge of fraudulent trading stemming from the £34 million collapse of the Levitt Group in December 1990. The pair were freed on bail before sentencing on Friday.

Robert Price, former finance director, was acquitted. A new trial was ordered for

Alan McNamara, 29, who denies a single count of fraudulent trading.

Mr Levitt's wife, Diana, and his parents, were in court to hear Mr Justice Laws dismiss the jury.

Mr Levitt changed his plea to admit fraudulently misleading the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra). Mr Reed joined Mr Levitt in pleading guilty to the charge.

The pair denied two other charges of false accounting and fraudulently injecting funds. David Cocks QC, prosecuting, said that in view of

the two men's plea changes, the Crown would no longer be pursuing the outstanding parts of the charge and that Mr Price could be discharged.

Mr Price, 42, suffered a "mental collapse" in early Spring 1990 — months before Fimbra was deceived — and never returned to work.

The Crown, therefore, would be offering no evidence against him on the fraudulent trading charge, Mr Cocks said. He was granted defence costs, which are to be paid from public funds.

Another 21 counts that the defendants variously faced, and were due to be the subject

of a second trial, were ordered to be left on the file.

Outside court, Steven Barker, Mr Price's solicitor, said: "It comes as no surprise to us today that the Crown have finally offered no evidence against him and acquitted him of the charge that he faced. He today feels totally and fully vindicated by his acquittal, and hopes to get back to normal life as soon as possible."

The court was told how Frederick Forsyth, the writer, was duped out of £400,000 by Mr Levitt, who used the money in an attempt to shore up his ailing company.



Sir Colin Southgate said yesterday he is in no rush to sell Thorn EMI's loss-makers

Thorn EMI pegs dividend

By NEIL BENNETT

A STRING of number one hits failed to prevent half-year profits dipping at Thorn EMI, the music and rental group, which sent its shares sliding.

Pre-tax profits at the group fell £200,000 in the six months to end September to £105 million, even though the group's Virgin subsidiary held the number one spot for 12 of the 26 weeks with albums from Janet Jackson, UB40 and Meatloaf. The music division

increased profits 48 per cent to £89.9 million. Virgin, which Thorn bought for £510 million last year, made £36.5 million.

The group was hit by a £14.7 million loss from non-core technology business. This mostly came from a £10 million provision against fusing contracts in the defence electronics business. Thorn tried to sell this business to GEC this year, but the talks foundered.

The figures caused the

shares to slide 35p to 914p. The City was particularly dismayed that Thorn failed to raise the dividend, holding it at 9p. Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, said the City had failed to appreciate the strength of the group's core businesses and that he would not rush to sell the group's loss-makers. "I will not sell them for nothing," he said.

Tempus, page 27

Agreement on book prices under scrutiny

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE agreement that fixes book prices is to be reviewed by the Office of Fair Trading after complaints from booksellers that it is against the public interest.

The Net Book Agreement (NBA), supported by most publishers, sets minimum prices for books and prevents retailers from selling them for less. The OFT announced yesterday that it was to investigate the agreement and consider asking the Restrictive Practices Court to judge.

Publishers were angered by the decision. They believe that scrapping the NBA would result in many small publishers and booksellers going out of business. It is also likely, they say, that book prices would increase and that the range of books published would decrease. Ian Taylor, director of the Publishers As-

sociation, said: "At a time when the book trade, like everyone else, is battling its way out of recession, we are not over the moon about a possible change of the ground rules. It is difficult to see what anyone would gain by dismantling the NBA."

But big bookselling chains, the main opponents of the agreement, believe consumers would benefit from increased competition between bookshops. By forcing down the prices they pay publishers for books, they also hope to increase their market shares.

Two years ago, Dillons led a move to break the NBA by cutting the prices of more than 20 titles in the run-up to Christmas. The resulting price war among some retailers ended when the Publishers Association took legal action in an attempt to reinforce the voluntary agreement.

Terence Maher, founder of Pentos, the books and stationery group, said yesterday: "This is a great day for all of us who have been campaigning for the abolition of the agreement. I now believe that publishers should voluntarily decide to abandon it immediately. This would avoid an expensive and time-consuming investigation, the outcome of which cannot be in doubt."

When the OFT last reviewed the NBA, in 1989, it decided not to refer it to the Restrictive Practices Court because the government was expected to introduce new laws relating to restrictive practices.

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Midday trading figure				6pm	

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

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Crest settlement details to be given in spring

By GEORGE SIVELL
ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Bank of England working party responsible for setting up a new Stock Exchange settlements system in the wake of the Taurus project said yesterday that it would not publish full details of how the new Crest system would work until the spring.

Work on the new settlements systems is going ahead around the world as large international stock exchanges seek to speed up the time that is taken for buyers and sellers of shares to pay or collect their dues in

order to reduce the financial risks involved. The Group of Thirty international financial think tank has already recommended international standards that are far higher than London's present settlement period, which can give buyers up to a month to pay. The ultimate aim is to have all the major exchanges settling within two days.

London will move to a ten-day rolling settlement in the middle of next year and to a five-day rolling settlement in 1995. London first started drawing up a new settlements system because it was felt that the present Stock Exchange system was

too fragile to cope with the high trading volumes prevalent in the mid-eighties.

Yesterday, the Bank of England working party published a working paper on Crest on which it is inviting reaction. It is intended that share buyers will be able to opt for either a paper certificate or an electronic entry. In the latter case, a share buyer would receive something like a bank statement at regular intervals to show which shares have been bought and sold.

The working paper says Crest would offer investors faster, cheaper and more efficient settlement of their

transactions than present systems. It would also allow companies to get swifter, more up-to-date information on their shareholders.

Costs would be cut by the elimination of the mountain of paperwork currently involved in recording each share transaction, although investors would still have the option of insisting on a paper certificate.

The working party is seeking comments on the way the basic principles published yesterday would work, so it can draw up final plans by the beginning of May next year.

It still has to be decided who will run the new system, which is de-

signed as a non-profit making service for the City, although the Stock Exchange said it "may well have a significant role to play in that continuing structure". Many in the City suspect, however, that the Bank of England will eventually control share settlements, rather in the way that it runs the settlements system for government stocks.

The Bank of England was brought in after the Taurus collapse, which cost £80 million to the Stock Exchange and an estimated hundreds of millions to member firms who had tried to adapt their technology to cope with Taurus.

Power users 'pay £545m a year too much'

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY customers in England and Wales are being overcharged by £545 million a year, according to a study by Brunel University. The profitability achieved by the 12 regional electricity companies in their distribution business is twice the appropriate level, the study says.

Although the cost of delivering power amounts to only a small part of each household bill, the Brunel findings suggest an average overcharge of 4 per cent for domestic customers, or £12.16 a year on a typical £304 household bill.

For industry and the public sector, which — because they buy in bulk — get cheaper power, but pay higher distribution costs, the penalty is higher still. Overall, distribution charges account for a fifth of the cost of power.

The study, commissioned by the Chemical Industry Association, adds weight to business claims that power companies are making excess profits at customers' expense.

It will also increase pressure on Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, to tighten price controls on the regional companies. Professor Littlechild acknowledges concerns about

profits being earned in power distribution; in a consultation document, he has invited suggestions about how controls might be changed.

However, his proposals for reform will not be published until next summer, nor implemented before April 1995, a spokesman for Oftec, the regulatory body, reaffirmed yesterday.

Ian Blakey, chairman of the Energy Intensive Users Group, one of the bodies behind the study, said: "The distribution companies have enjoyed a profits bonanza at the expense of all types of customer since privatisation. Oftec must take firm action to clamp down on their profitability by a considerable tightening of price controls."

The Brunel study, carried out by a team of four that included two professors, found the average rate of return to the companies on their distribution business in the year to March 1992, on a current-cost accounting basis, was 9.2 per cent.

They concluded that 4.4 per cent would be an appropriate level: lower even than the 5 per cent deemed appropriate for the water companies by their regulator.



Laurence Shurman, banking ombudsman, after introducing his report yesterday

Banks 'spin out' complaints

By SARA MCCONNELL, PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

BANKS' internal complaints procedures are too complex and long drawn-out and more effort should be made to publicise the ombudsman scheme to customers, the banking ombudsman said, introducing his annual report

for 1992-3. Laurence Shurman said many bank staff appeared to be unaware of internal complaints procedures. He urged banks to display details of the ombudsman scheme prominently in branches.

Customers who went through a bank's complaints procedure were sometimes "strung out", Mr Shurman said. The volume of complaints has levelled out in the past year. A total of 10,231 was received and 1,111 were investigated fully. Of 1,810 full investigations completed, 36 per cent went in favour of complainants. The smallest award was £5 and the biggest, £81,700.

Problems with bank charges and interest topped the banking ombudsman's list last year, accounting for almost a fifth of the complaints received. However, only 6.9 per cent of these merited full investigation.

By contrast, although only 6.4 per cent of complaints concerned cashpoints, they accounted for a fifth of complaints taken to full investigation.

Mr Shurman said that in many cases, banks' charges turned out to be justified.

Vodafone admits quality problems

By PATRICIA TEHAN

VODAFONE, the mobile telephone operator, admitted yesterday the quality of service provided by its pan-European digital network is not as good as the old-style analogue system.

Cerry Whent, chief executive, said: "No doubt about it, you have to put a denser network on digital than you do on analogue to give comparable quality. We are not happy with the service that we have, but we are confident we will have it right by February." The EuroDigital service was launched in September, with MetroDigital for urban subscribers following in October.

However, he said that Vodafone is no longer having problems with the GSM chip technology and the quality problem should be solved by February with an increase in the number of GSM base stations of about 60 nationally to give more than 930 sites.

The company unveiled a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £174.5 million for the first half year to end-September, after a £13 million loss from start-up costs and notional interest on investments in overseas ventures.

Turnover was 22 per cent higher at £389.8 million. Earnings per share were up from 10.76p to 11.7p and the interim dividend has been raised by 20 per cent to 4.12p, with a scrip alternative. Vodafone said profits would have been 16.4 per cent higher if the effects of the investment in new GSM digital networks in Greece and Australia had been excluded. Profits from the overseas operations in Malta, Hong Kong and Scandinavia failed to offset the losses in Greece and Australia.

Vodafone's lead in the United Kingdom mobile telephone market slipped from 50 per cent to 35 per cent with rival Cellnet, which is 60 per cent-owned by BT and 40 per cent-owned by Securicor, making gains.

But Mr Whent said that Cellnet's gains were in the consumer market, while Vodafone is stronger on the business side where revenues are higher.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BCCI liquidators to seek new compensation plan

THE liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International are to start from scratch in negotiations for a new compensation agreement with the government of Abu Dhabi, the majority shareholder.

The move follows last month's Luxembourg court ruling against the \$1.7 billion compensation plan agreed last year. The decision to return to the table means both sides are effectively back to when the bank collapsed in July 1991, with 530,000 creditors no closer to compensation. The liquidators, of Touche Ross, the accountant, said they "intend to seek to re-establish a dialogue with Abu Dhabi with a view to determining whether any new plan can be developed".

Mixed brew for brewer

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the Burton brewer, has pushed pre-tax profits ahead from £9.56 million to £11.5 million in the six months to September 25, but warned shareholders that a similar advance cannot be expected in the second half. The interim dividend is raised from 1.45p to 1.60p. Michael Hurdle, the chairman, says conditions within the company have remained difficult, with sales by the brewing side to Marston's pubs falling by 3.4 per cent.

C&W to raise \$400m

CABLE and Wireless is raising \$400 million through an issue of Eurodollar bonds to help fund its annual £1 billion investment programme. The bonds, the international telecommunications group's first public US dollar debt issue, was met with strong demand from a wide geographic spread of institutional investors. The bonds have a ten-year maturity and carry a 6.5 per cent coupon. The proceeds are also to be used to fund emerging business opportunities.

Nelson Hurst forecast

NELSON Hurst, the insurance broker gearing up for flotation, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £5.2 million, compared with £1.4 million, in the year to end-December. Next month's placing and intermediaries offer will value the group, bought out by management from Citicorp in May 1991, at £60 million to £70 million and will raise £28.5 million of fresh funds. About £23 million will be used to repay Citicorp loan notes. After flotation, the company will have £1.5 million of debt.

Capital Radio ahead

A FIRST-TIME contribution from Midlands Radio, bought in April, and an upturn in advertising revenue in the final quarter sent pre-tax profits at Capital Radio ahead to £11.7 million in the year to end-September, from a directly comparable £8.8 million before a £2.2 million exceptional gain the previous year from the sale of the Duke of York's Theatre. Capital shares responded with a 14p rise to 223p. A final dividend of 4p makes a total up 0.5p at 5.75p.

Anglo Irish rises 45%

STICKING to its core business of lending and treasury in Ireland and the United Kingdom helped Anglo Irish BankCorp to increase its pre-tax profits 45 per cent to £19.25 million (£8.8 million) in the year to end-September 30. The profits compare with a restated £16.38 million, in accordance with new financial reporting standards. Earnings per share were up 12 per cent to 5.7p and the dividend for the year is held at 3.30p.

News chief executive

THE chairman of News International, Andrew Knight, has announced that August Fischer, managing director, is appointed chief executive of the company. Mr Fischer remains chief operating officer of The News Corporation. The appointment gives Mr Fischer executive oversight of News International and allows the chairman to concentrate on the corporate interests of the company.

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Lambeth Building Society Appoints New Director

Mr Michael Haines has joined the Board of Lambeth Building Society, as a non-executive director.

Mr Haines, who is 57, recently retired as a partner in KPMG Peat Marwick, where he was Chairman of the South Eastern Region. He was a director of the National Building Society, a Director of the Royal London NHS Trust, a Director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, a Director of the Fleetway Business Venture and Treasurer of the London & Quadrant Housing Trust.

Mr Haines is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

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ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 8% p.a. to 5.5% p.a. with effect from close of business 23rd November 1993.

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□ The Chancellor gives away nothing □ Beware VAT rather than OFT □ Some directors are more equal than others

A masterly exercise in confusion

IF FINANCE ministers and central bankers like creating uncertainty to disarm speculators in domestic markets as much as they do on the foreign exchanges, yesterday was a hand-rubbing triumph for Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George. Share prices dashed about in all directions, gilded lost most of their early gains on the half-a-loaf base rate cut and, not surprisingly amid such confusion, there was record trading in financial futures.

The complacent consensus that the Chancellor would raise taxes and mathematically offset the effect on the economy by cutting interest rates proportionately in his Budget has been shattered. Now the markets have little notion whether tax rises will be big or small or whether yesterday's half point is really all they are going to get this year on interest rates, or even whether fiscal and monetary policy are indeed two sides of the Budget coin or have again been separated into watertight compartments.

The Chancellor's best wheeze, however, was in creating a political smokescreen. By announcing that the Bank of England would have responsibility for the exact timing of base rate changes, he focused attention on the status of the Bank — as well as creating yet more uncertainty for markets long habituated to rate cuts accompanying party conference and Bud-

get speeches. It soon turned out that this was not exactly the first step in creating an independent central bank. Since the Bank's discretion seems to run no further than a few days, it is more like a pair of families magnanimously allowing a teenager out after dark, provided he is back by 11pm.

In reality, by answering the complaints of Norman Lamont about the last rate cut, Mr Clarke will reinforce the authority of the Chancellor and the Treasury, rather than the Bank. Mr Lamont was annoyed that the prime minister pushed the button for the last rate cut from thousands of miles away because the troops were restive at home. The Bank was peeved because the cut pre-empted an auction of gilt-edged stock, upsetting its relations with the market. By answering the Bank's complaint by allowing it discretion, Mr Clarke has done nothing to reduce his own power. He has simply stopped the prime minister meddling in interest rates without consultation.

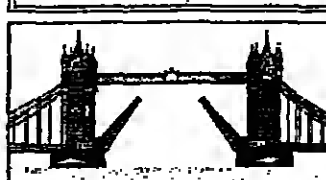
Not that the new arrangements should be treated as anything more than a statement of intent. Those with long memories will

recall a long series of new schemes for setting interest rates since the abolition of imposed bank rate, all of which proved nothing more than meaningless formalities when storms hit the markets. For one brief period in the Seventies, "bank rate" was fully privatised, to be determined by free market forces through the prices determined in interbank market. It did not last. Twenty years later, Mr Lamont had no compunction about setting aside the system of Bank-induced base rates when sterling was falling out of the ERM. Come the next crisis, even the Bank's limited new discretion will count for naught.

Page-turning times for the book trade

TIMING is everything in Sir Bryan Carsberg's decision to open a new chapter in the endless debate about the Net Book Agreement. His Office of Fair Trading is to re-examine an issue it looked at under Sir Gordon Borrie only four years ago. Sir Gordon concluded that it could safely be put back on the shelf. Ostensibly, Sir Bryan is

PENNINGTON



having another go because planned legislation, which would have led to all such permitted restrictive practices being reviewed, has itself been shelved.

Far more important, in reality, is the Budget cliffhanger: will Kenneth Clarke impose VAT on books, along with newspapers, next week? Whether or not that was the hidden scenario behind Sir Bryan's move, it could certainly prove the vital issue in his investigation.

A report drawn up by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm helping the industry's lobby, suggests that a 17.5 per cent VAT might cut total sales by 15 per cent, concentrated in the consumer book sector. That would reverse the rise in the percentage of discretionary

spending going to books over the past few years. This is evidently a pretty rough estimate, however, not least because Ernst & Young argues that spending on books is much more strongly geared to incomes than relative prices.

The Chancellor's other tax decisions, and the course of economic recovery, are just as vital to the book trade — as are spending cuts that limit purchases of all classes of books by public institutions. One absolutely clear implication of Ernst & Young's report, however, is that VAT on books, even at the less explosive 8 per cent rate, would put heavy pressure on ex-tax prices.

For the trade, the issue is where that pressure would fall. Oddly, the main challenges to resale price maintenance have come from specialist book chains, such as Penzance, a sector long supposed to be the likely victim of price-free competition because it needs high gross margins to finance stock. If the agreement was banned, or lapsed by permission of publishers, retail price-cutting would probably focus on books packaged for newer outlets such as supermarkets, where books are marginal pur-

chases. Specialists might be hit less, in part due to lower interest rates on working capital.

Thereafter, price pressure would probably fall on the publishers if they were not to damage their own main market. There is a strong element in the price of books. That lies in the copyright — hence the huge premium on the hardback editions libraries have to buy — but ultimately in payments to authors. Their incomes would be the ones to suffer most from VAT. Logically, they would therefore soon be recruited to the anti-NBA cause, if only to spread the pain.

Filling family gap in Cadbury's snack

NIGEL Stapleton's ascent to the chair of the 100 Group of finance directors, vacated for Michael Lawrence to become chief executive of the Stock Exchange, is another interesting piece of timing. At Reed Elsevier, Mr Stapleton has been at the centre of the debate over goodwill and brand names, on which the Accounting Stan-

dards Board is soon to pronounce. But Mr Lawrence's agenda, which centred round the practicality of the Cadbury code and the vexed question of internal controls, will not go away in a hurry.

The 100 Group represents big companies, but should pay attention to a revealing report by Coopers & Lybrand on Cadbury and the smaller listed company. Its survey found that four out of five companies outside the top 350 planned changes to apply the code. Yet a hefty two out of five will not comply in full. Coopers' Sir Brian Jenkins notes that a large proportion of listed companies will therefore face the stigma of failing to meet a code developed with big companies in mind.

That does not mean the code is wrong, but there is a case for having another look. The complaints arise mainly from cost — such as recruiting three top-rank wholly independent non-executive directors from an over-fished pool — and the bureaucracy of committees and formality. The issue that really leaps out, however, is that the Cadbury committee did not really come to grips with the implications of having a single big shareholder, often the founder's or chief executive's family and often exercising effective control. Given that the Maxwell empire was a classic case, this looks a gaping hole in a system for corporate governance.

Allied-Lyons calls for curb on drink imports

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

Higher profits from Allied-Lyons, the drinks group, mask a severe downturn in earnings from the brewing business, now merged with Denmark's Carlsberg

CROSS-CHANNEL imports of cheap drink, mainly from France, are costing the Exchequer £340 million a year in lost revenue and should be curbed by the government, Allied-Lyons, one of Britain's biggest drinks groups, said.

Michael Jackman, Allied's chairman, said that each year, 750,000 barrels of beer alone were imported, in competition with British brewers. This cost Britain £100 million in lost tax. "It is therefore all the more important that the government addresses the problem of cross-border shopping," he said.

Allied is calling for a freeze on further tax increases in next week's Budget. Tony Hales, the chief executive, said the amount of tax already levied on the drinks industry, totalling £10 billion a year, was "scandalous". The company

said it could not assess how much the competition from cheap imported beer was costing it. But Mr Hales said the assumption was that sales were lost at a rate proportionate to Allied's 17.5 per cent share of the beer market. That, on the margins Allied enjoys, implies lost profits of slightly more than £2 million a year.

A poor performance by the new brewing joint venture with the Danish Carlsberg group was a feature of interim figures from Allied that still showed an increase in pre-tax profits from £234 million to £285 million in the 28 weeks to September 18.

The figures include £21 million lost on this summer's sale

of the Chateau Latour wine business because of currency changes; the previous year included £34 million in reorganisation costs. At the operating level, Allied managed an 8 per cent increase to £358 million, and the interim dividend is raised from 6.95p to 7.30p, paid out of normalised earnings per share up 5 per cent at 18.9p.

While the spirits and wine division, which includes brands such as Beefeater gin and Canadian Club whisky, saw a 3 per cent rise in trading profits to £181 million, both retailing and food manufacturing managed 6 per cent increases, to £121 million and £36 million respectively.

Allied says the year-on-year comparison in brewing and wholesaling is impossible to quantify because the Carlsberg-Tetley joint venture started only last December. That division saw trading profits increase from £57 million to £63 million, but the rise is balanced by higher minority payments, including the Danish share from the venture.

The group concedes that Carlsberg-Tetley's performance was disappointing, and with underlying brewing profits from Britain substantially lower, Allied shares plunged by 12p, before recovering to end 3p down at 568p.

On the general outlook, Mr Jackman said: "All our current experience confirms the perception that economic recoveries, where they are happening, are not robust. Some economies are flat or trending down."

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Call to resist price cut pressure

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CHRISTOPHER Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods, the food and milk company, has urged food manufacturers to stand firm and resist pressure from food retailers to cut prices.

In a blast at the retailers, delivered along with half-year results yesterday, he said he believed that their discounting was not sustainable in the long term.

He said that the supermarkets' price war had intensified, with the chainstores exerting increasing pressure to pass on their price discounts to food manufacturers.

Mr Haskins said: "It is not

in food manufacturers' interest to cut prices as this will just lower our margins. If we do we will be shooting ourselves in the foot." He added: "Retail competition is intensifying and is certainly not going to let up in the short term. But the downgrading and excessive discounting is unsustainable in the longer term."

Mr Haskins unveiled a 5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £721 million for the six months to end-September.

The interim dividend advanced from 3.4p to 3.5p, up 3 per cent. The shares fell 4p to 225p.

Profits were held back by competition between the su-

permarkets, which hit smaller independent shops and led to a slump in doorstep sales of milk. The fall in doorstep sales, which accelerated in the six months, was matched by a rise in sales to supermarkets.

The change in the mix will hit profits in the short term because of the delay before costs are stripped out of the doorstep delivery distribution system and the extra investment needed to meet the increased demand from the supermarkets.

Three of the company's four divisions achieved a modest rise in profits.

Operating profits in the dairy division advanced by

£300,000 to £40 million while profits from the convenience foods division rose by £1 million to £22.5 million. The grocery operations lifted profits by £900,000 to £9.5 million. But meat products suffered a £2 million fall in profits to £9.4 million, reflecting the impact of lower van sales to small shops and selective trading down.

The discounting by the supermarkets had also accelerated the decline in sales to small shops from the 5 to 6 per cent of recent years to 10 per cent in the six month period, Mr Haskins said.

Tempus, page 27

Quality management counts at BTR

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN



Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, and Kathleen O'Donovan, finance director

BTR, the industrial conglomerate where Alan Jackson is managing director and Kathleen O'Donovan finance director, has won the first British Quality of Management Award.

The new annual award, sponsored by MORI and Sundridge Park, the corporate and executive development group, is designed to assess management's capability in terms of the long-term, future development prospects and performance of a company.

Nearly 300 executives from Britain's top 500 companies, institutional fund managers and business editors were surveyed. The total prize value is more than £100,000 worth of fully tailored, corporate development programmes in each of the next five years. The two runner-up winners were Marks and Spencer and Glaxo.

CI BTR is selling Summers, its US electrical wholesale business, for a maximum of \$120 million as part of its reduction of wholesale distribution activities. The buyer is Wilcox & Gibbs of Dallas, a wholesale distributor of electrical parts.

Tempus, page 27

Laughter fades in Queens Moat farce

BY MELVYN MARKUS
CITY EDITOR

EMBARRASSMENT is mounting over the manner in which the "rescue" of Queens Moat Houses is being conducted, not least among certain of the company's 65 banks, led by Barclays.

The Queens Moat farce, now the subject of a trade department enquiry, is set to reach epic proportions on Monday, when shareholders will be asked to adopt QMH's 1992 report and accounts. These embrace Jones Lang Wootton's controversial property valuation of £361 million — vastly below Weatherall Green's £2 billion valuation a year earlier and subsequent valuation of £1.35 billion.

Shareholders remain exceedingly critical of the board's decision to accept Jones Lang's valuation without recourse to arbitration, bearing in mind that the writedown leaves QMH with a negative net worth. Revelations, in recent weeks, of

the salaries and perks awarded to QMH's senior executives, led by Stanley Metcalfe, the non-executive chairman, have heightened such criticism.

Mr Metcalfe receives a salary of £180,000 for a three-day week, while the chief executive, relates to a basic salary of £250,000. Andrew Le Poidevan, the finance director, and Michael Cairns, the operating director, each receive £200,000. What has raised eyebrows is confirmation that the three executives will each receive bonuses of £100,000 when QMH's financial restructuring is finalised, along with a further £100,000 when QMH's shares — suspended since last March — are requested. Mr Coppel, it appears, may be entitled to up to £50,000 by way of a further bonus payment next year, with subsequent bonuses linked to QMH's earnings. In addition to generous pension arrangements, Mr Coppel, a former finance director of Rainers who subse-

quently failed to prevent Sale Tilney's descent into receivership, will also receive maximum permitted share option incentives.

Mr Metcalfe's participation in QMH's incentive scheme flies against the Cadbury committee's recommendations regarding non-executive directors. In the wake of the resignation of David Howell, an ex-Conservative minister, and John Gale, an ex-NatWest banker, Mr Metcalfe is QMH's sole non-executive director.

John Baird, QMH's founder and former chairman, let it be known yesterday that he had voted his eight million shares by proxy against the resolution to adopt the report and accounts. Mr Baird, who believes a debt for equity swap is a viable idea, said: "The uncertainty and confusion surrounding the valuations of the group's properties have not been resolved. This leaves shareholders quite unable to assess the company's asset position."

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MERCEDES DRIVE

by

Europcar Interrent

Time not yet ripe to talk of Bank independence

Janet Bush argues that speculation over the timing of the latest interest rate cut should not be granted excessive significance

Top officials, whether in the Treasury or the Bank of England, were at pains yesterday to divert attention away from the main event. Nameless officials rushed to pass on to journalists their spin on the apparently significant decision to leave the precise timing of interest rate changes to the Bank of England.

Speculation raged yesterday, after the Bank announced a half-point cut in the minimum lending rate to 5.5 per cent, that its new control over the timing represented another, albeit modest, step towards independence from political control.

The announcement took on an additional piquancy because it came just a week after Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, appeared to be rather agnostic on the entire subject of independence at the CBI conference and therefore to be casually resistant to the intensifying debate.

The disappointing decision to cut by only 0.5 per cent, rather than the full point the markets had been expecting on or around Budget day, was yesterday's significant news. The issue of timing is a sideshow that says more about the presentation rather than the substance of policy.

The official line yesterday was that the Bank's new discretion is heavily circumscribed and that the discretion over timing is only about days rather than weeks: the decision to cut rates was apparently taken last week by the Chancellor, after the usual consultation with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Treasury officials. The Chancellor has always had the last word on such decisions — and still does.

There is another reason yesterday's announcement suggests a less than radical shift of power towards the Bank. That is that the men and women of Threadneedle Street have always had some limited discretion over the timing of rate changes. As the institution with the closest day-to-day contacts with the financial markets, it has always been part of the Bank's brief to advise the government what day, what hour, would ensure the best market reaction.

This can be measured in terms of the current volatility of markets, whether sterling looks as if it is going up or down, whether the Bank is trying to sell billions of pounds' worth of government bonds the next day or, as was said yesterday, because "it was a quiet day".

The "quiet day" on which the Bank chose to exercise its new discretion happened to be almost equidistant between last Wednesday, when a surprisingly encouraging set of inflation figures was released, and Budget day next Tuesday. The Bank made it clear that the decision reflected the improved medium-term inflation out-



Kenneth Clarke decided on the cut after consulting the Bank's Eddie George

look and took the Budget fully into account.

Officials made it clear that the word "fully" was significant and precludes another rate cut on Budget day as a sweetener for what many believe will be a tough tax-raising (and even expenditure-cutting) Budget. If, as the Whitehall press machine suggested, the Bank's new discretion is measured in days, it seems that the Chancellor himself decided against a rate cut next Tuesday that would have had even more public relations impact with the electorate.

Whether Mr Clarke or Eddie George ruled on this, Norman Lamont's resignation lament about politicised

interest rate policy has finally been answered. The Bank of England will certainly be pleased. Remember the last time rates were cut, on January 26?

The timing, the day before a huge auction of government bonds, caused a furore in the City and fury at the Bank of England. Gifted dealers were estimated to have lost £20 million and Bank insiders reported that they had scarcely been given any notice of the government's decision. It was also widely assumed that Mr Lamont's call for an independent Bank of England and an end to the political timing of rate cuts partly reflected this debacle.

There is no doubt that an increasingly assertive central bank, under the

feisty stewardship of Mr George, its new governor, will have exerted considerable behind-the-scenes pressure on the new Chancellor to avoid this kind of embarrassment in future; yesterday's announcement seems to be the result. Downing Street officials said that the decision had been taken some time ago in a bilateral meeting between Mr Clarke and John Major.

There was scepticism in the City about whether the Bank yesterday achieved very much, if at all, in its increasingly public campaign for independence. Economists at Chase Manhattan Bank in London are clear: "What is more likely is that the Treasury has come up with this measure to head off the debate about Bank of England independence without really changing things at all. One could argue that the Bank has always been in charge of the precise timing of interest rate cuts, being the executor of monetary policy."

There is certainly evidence that the Chancellor is trying to lower expectations that the Bank of England will be made independent, using a policy of gradual concessions such as the timing question as well as allowing the Bank's quarterly Inflation Report to go through "unvetted". But is there a risk that the Treasury, in this process, gives up some degree of genuine control over the setting of monetary policy?

At a very basic level, some in the City believe that the relative inexperience of the Chancellor means that Mr Clarke may be happy to rely more heavily on the advice coming from Threadneedle Street. Stephen Lewis, of the London Bond Broking Company, commented yesterday: "Mr Clarke knows that he is not a master of market manipulation. The Bank is bound to have a lot of input into decision-making."

Perhaps of more significance is the fact that the first occasion when the Bank of England was given its discretion over timing was so close to a Budget. By all accounts, both Mr Clarke and Mr George were keen to separate the two major "economic events" by a significant number of days.

Mr Clarke may have been motivated partly by a desire to avoid charges of playing politics on Budget day, partly by a wish to appear to be as tough and uncompromising as possible in tackling the public sector deficit to impress his huge audience in the financial markets.

The Bank, however, has another agenda. By distancing the interest rate cut from the tax and spending decisions to be announced on Tuesday, the Bank has, presentationally at least, made a start in breaking the link between monetary and fiscal policy in which one, properly, can be used to counterbalance the other. One key plank of the campaign towards independence has always been that interest rate policy should be determined largely by the aim of price stability, subordinating what is happening in the real economy to this aim.

That shift of perception — and genuine independence for the Bank — remains some way off, despite yesterday's public relations sop. It was made clear that the rate cut came because of lower rates in Europe, inflation and whatever is in the Budget. And, aye, there's the rub.

TEMPUS Crown of Thorn's

SIR Colin Southgate complains that the City does not understand Thorn EMI and fails to appreciate the strength of the core music and rental business, but in truth it has been extremely patient. Thorn has been promising to dispose of peripheral interests for almost four years but the defence and security business are still there and show little sign of moving. The £14.7 million half-year loss from the technology businesses suggests the group should have sold defence to GEC after all, even at the knock-down price Lord Weinstock finally offered.

At least Sir Colin's plea that investors should give the group the benefit of the doubt carries some weight now he has proved the value of Virgin Music. The group was universally condemned for paying too much early last year. But the £36.5 million profit

Virgin made in the first half put Virgin on a p/e ratio of less than 11 on its £510 million purchase price, suggesting it was a bargain.

Despite this, Thorn's shares have performed badly since the defence sale talks were abandoned in August and they are now beset by a ring of worries. These include the MMC's enquiry into CD prices, the rate of the decline in the rental business, the continuing poor performance of Rumbelows and the risk of federal legislation against the US rent-to-own industry which would hit Rent-a-Center. Dividend concerns are the latest drag on the shares, given Sir Colin's new determination to restore cover to two times. In time, Thorn can answer all these points but it will not earn the premium rating it thinks a music business deserves until it is a pure music business. Given the past pace of events, that could take years.

Allied-Lyons

THE performance of the new Carlsberg-Tetley brewing joint venture is so obscured in Allied's figures that the assumption must be that the figures are truly awful.

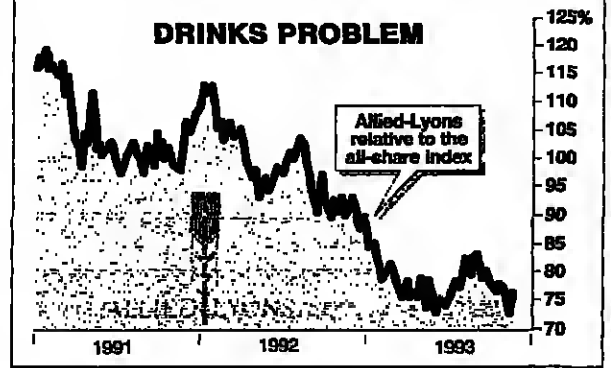
Allied concedes privately that its targets for the venture were missed by 20 per cent. On the rough calculation, perhaps a third of brewing profits disappeared as cheaper competitors cut Allied out of existing contracts while management fretted over the merger. Volumes fell 7 per cent, against a market of 3 per cent, although Allied hopes to maintain market share in the second half.

Total brewing and wholesaling trading profits went down £6 million, to £63 million, part coming from other sources: meanwhile, the £19 million increase in minority payments further

down the profit and loss account to £37 million is presumably Carlsberg's share of the venture's profits.

The indifferent summer did not seem to hamper the pubs side, however, since Allied had the advantage of blaming the government for forcing it to sell some of the worst performers which boosted its take per pub.

Most market estimates, stripped of the £21 million recorded book loss from Chateau Launay, are around the £680 million mark, putting the shares on a clean forward multiple of about 14. The 4.8 per cent prospective yield will provide support, but further progress will need proof of some recovery in the second half.



Northern Foods

NORTHERN Foods' experience shows that a food manufacturer can survive amid the crossfire of the supermarkets price war, but it needs a stout tin helmet to do so. The most optimistic feature of the group's half-year figures is the increase in sales and profits by Fox's Biscuits, which shows that a strong brand can survive even the most aggressive price-cutting among the private labels.

The group's operating margins are clearly under some pressure in many places, particularly in the dairy division, which is having to invest heavily to keep up with the accelerated decline of doorstep milk deliveries and the rise of supermarket sales. But they are holding firm in other areas, such as the convenience food division, on the back of a modest rise in sales.

Given a reasonable Christmas, Northern should be able to continue edging profits ahead, despite the price pressures and sluggish sales growth in the industry. But this assumes that the supermarket wars will not intensify

their competition early next year. If they do, even food manufacturers with the most defensive portfolios may find themselves being stripped of margins they have worked hard to maintain through operating efficiencies.

Vodafone

ANYONE looking for wounds from the new competition in the mobile phone industry would not find them in Vodafone's half-year figures. Admittedly, the operating margin fell 4.4 percentage points to 43.3 per cent, but this appears to have been caused by the £13 million cost of the group's new investments in Greece and Australia. Otherwise, the group's return on capital continues to rise and its confidence for the future is demonstrated by a 20 per cent rise in dividend.

All basic laws of business suggest this happy state cannot last for ever. The heavily marketed price initiatives by Vodafone and its competitors have been little more than opening salvos. The pressure on prices will intensify, particularly when Microtel, the Hutchison Whampoa/BAE

joint venture, launches its PCN network in April. Real competition may take longer to bite into a company's performance than a regulatory price formulae, but the ultimate effect is just as painful.

As a result, Vodafone's shares have never recovered their former highs since the launch of Mercury one-2-one in September. The company still has tremendous growth potential and is now proving that it can invest its excess cash flow. But even bulls of the stock should wait until Microtel's launch before chasing the stock.

BTR

AS BTR signs off yet another disposal, the suspicion must be growing that it is searching for its next big move. The sale of Summers Group for \$120 million is hardly noteworthy on its own in the context of the group's size. But combined with the group's enhanced scrip dividend and next year's £350 million flotation of Graham Builders Merchants, it will cut the group's gearing to below 40 per cent. When BTR does buy, it will buy big.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bells in tune at Westminster

SIR Tim Bell, former image consultant to Baroness Thatcher, is launching a fresh assault on Westminster. Sir Tim, who was knighted for his services to the Conservative party, is setting up a new political lobbying consultancy, Lowe Bell Government Relations, which aims to use its influence to put blue chip company directors in touch with the ministers who count. And to show he really means business, he has found a powerful weapon in Kevin Bell, the highly respected political lobbyist, who unexpectedly quit Westminster Strategy last month and has been busy sounding out new opportunities. Bell, who is on a trip to Hong Kong, has been signed up for a reputed package of £100,000 plus car. Discussions with Financial Dynamics, the City PR firm, over a similar political venture came to nothing. Sir Tim, together with Stephen Sherborne, Lady Thatcher's former political secretary, fly home from Johannesburg tonight, after holding talks with President de Klerk. Lowe Bell Communications has been appointed to advise the National Party in the run-up to next April's general election.

China watching

THE approach of 1997, with all that it means to Hong Kong, is being watched nervously by Sotheby's, the fine art house, which has been doing a roaring trade in Chinese ceramics and Ming imperial

porcelain. It is not clear whether works of art — and antiques in particular — will be freely exportable from the colony after the handover, or whether China will extend its ban on the export of antiques. If the authorities clamp down, Sotheby's has threatened to base itself elsewhere in the region after more than 20 years. "If the second case happens, we can't continue our business in Hong Kong," says Julian Thompson, director for South East Asia. "On the other hand, if Hong Kong is still free, from an export point of view, there's no reason at all why we shouldn't be flourishing after 1997."

ONE of the Abbey National's senior financial planning consultants is A. Crook. To make matters worse, the poor man's middle name is Robin.

Ton-up Stapleton

NIGEL Stapleton, chief financial officer of Reed Elsevier and a member of the Financial Reporting Review Panel, is to be the new chairman of The

Hundred Group of Finance Directors from January 1. He succeeds Michael Lawrence, who is retiring to take up his new role as chief executive of the Stock Exchange. Stapleton, 47, will take the helm of a group that includes more than 95 per cent of finance directors of FT-SE 100 companies. "There are many important issues still to be tackled," he says. Elsewhere, the former John Govey futures team of Adam Parkin, Robert Dawkins and James Palmer, have set up a derivative fund management operation for LCF, Edmund de Rothschild, London, the local arm of a Swiss financial group. Jonathan Hughes-Morgan joins them from Odey Asset Management and UBS has appointed Philip Wylie as a Zurich-based corporate finance director and M&A specialist in the automotive industry.

Game of the name

THE new Broomball League kicks off at Broadgate today — and the choice of team names are as colourful as ever. More

than 100 City firms are set to compete for the Exco Challenge Cup over the next four months, including Canadian Imperial Bank's Maple Syrup, the College Hillbillies from College Hill PR, The Ice Holes from Lehman Brothers, Ricardo's Rockets from Bankers Trust, and The Undertakers from Goldman Sachs. Solicitors' entries include The Budgies from Bird & Bird and Bedknobs and Broomsticks from D.J. Freeman. Legal & General Investment Management has a team called LCI shambles, and Morgan Grenfell's bunch call themselves Dulwich Paternity Clinic. Names aside, Broomball packs the speed and aggression of ice hockey, but is played in soft shoes rather than skates — with predictably chaotic results. The game originated in Russia where teams played on the frozen streets of Moscow and St Petersburg... using inflated bladders and human skulls wrapped in cloth on the end of sticks.

FIRST Taurus. Now Crest. And what about Topic? One would expect the Stock Exchange to be up to speed with news of the surprise cut in base rates, but it did not appear so. Reuters, which prides itself on being quick off the mark, broke news of the cut at 9.46 am. The Press Association followed at 9.51. And Topic ambled in at 9.58. The SE said the Bank of England notified Reuters and Topic at the same time, but it took a while for Topic's company news section to pick it up from the Bank's pages.

JON ASHWORTH

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Volatile performance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 15. Dealings end November 26. Contango day November 29. Settlement day December 6. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
436	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
437	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
438	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
439	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
440	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
441	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
442	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
443	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
444	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
445	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
446	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
447	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
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492	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
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495	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
496	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
497	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
498	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
499	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
500	145	140	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15

BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
446	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
447	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
448	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
449	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
450	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
451	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
452	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
453	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
454	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
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457	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
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468	87	85	Abey Infr	40	-1	11.8	37.15
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BUILDING, ROADS

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A new phenomenon is about to burst upon the country's supermarket shoppers. Loyalty schemes, designed to keep them from straying to rivals down the road, are coming.

After years of rumour and denials, Sainsbury, the United Kingdom's biggest grocer, has quietly started testing a new "SaverCard" scheme, by which customers accumulate points on a chequecard-style piece of plastic, to be redeemed against future purchases. Not to be outdone, Tesco has begun trialling a similar "ClubCard".

Meanwhile, Safeway, the number three grocer, is debating whether to go national after a year-long trial of Air Miles. And this month, Asda rolls out Catalina, a state-of-the-art promotion scheme that uses sophisticated computer software to analyse each shopping basket as it goes through the till and generate instant, specifically-targeted coupons. These will keep customers returning to its stores, Asda believes.

Loyalty schemes are hardly new. Green Shield Stamps were a primitive but successful ancestor. Companies such as British Home Stores and Sainsbury's Homebase have long operated loyalty cards. Air Miles is well-established in certain sectors.

But so far the big grocery chains have stayed clear, arguing that their mix of products, prices and service is enough to keep customers happy. They have also been daunted by the costs of such schemes: promoting, administering, and offering expensive "incentives" to keep customers loyal can add up to a big drain on profits.

Recession, over-ambitious superstore opening programmes, and the new discounter threat is changing all that. Along with many other industries, the grocery chains are shifting their marketing focus. The prime aim is to keep existing customers rather than to acquire

Supermarkets are preparing doomsday weapons in the fight for customers, Alan Mitchell says

Shops play high-stake cards

The image shows three supermarket advertisements. On the left is a Safeway ad for 'more great Safeway offers' featuring a bottle of wine for 'ONLY £1.99' and a '20% off all toys' offer. In the middle is a Sainsbury's ad for 'remove dirt, grease and £1.50' featuring a bottle of Jif cleaner. On the right is a Tesco ad for 'THE KWIK SAVE CHALLENGE' with a '20% off all toys' offer.

The supermarket war as seen in the advertisements in one day's edition of *The Sun*. The next scheme from the market leaders is discount cards for regular customers

new ones, and they are having to improve their offers just to achieve this modest aim. Anthony Rees, director of marketing at Sainsbury, says: "These days people say, 'I spend a fortune at Sainsbury, aren't I a valued customer?' Our argument is that we offer best

value. We can earn their loyalty from this basic offer — or from offering rather more." In Sainsbury's SaverCard case, that "rather more" is £50 in £1,000 — a potential 5 per cent slice off its margins.

Loyalty schemes have to be very

valuable to make such numbers add up. They can be. For a start, if a portion of your customer base is persuaded not to defect to a new superstore down the road, an extra discount may well be worth paying. But there are other benefits. Incentives can be structured to edge

occasional shoppers into becoming frequent shoppers, and to persuade existing frequent shoppers to spend more. To start earning points on the Sainsbury scheme, for example, you must spend £20, higher than its average shopping bill.

Potentially most important of all,

loyalty schemes can be used to build a customer database. For the first time, grocers can acquire, systematically, the names and addresses of the people who shop with them. Their shopping baskets can be analysed and the potential for tightly-targeted promotions teased

out. Or the database can be used to target potential new customers. Homebase, for example, already uses its one million strong database to find out where high proportions of "loyal promotion-responsive customers" live and to woo similar people in similar areas.

In fact, grocery-based loyalty schemes are potentially so powerful they are seen as a marketing atom bomb: better deployed as a deterrent or used only as a last resort: proliferation to be opposed; a matter for top secrecy (Tesco and Sainsbury refuse point blank to say a thing about their tests).

A more open Sainsbury stresses its SaverCard is still experimental. It is only being deployed in a tiny number of carefully targeted stores where the need is urgent, for example, where competitor superstores are invading nearby territory, Mr Rees says.

But chances are that a full-scale loyalty war will soon break out. One good reason is that the biggest and most ambitious loyalty scheme yet is poised for a spring 1994 launch. The programme, the brainchild of AT&T Istel, the United States telecommunications giant, will combine top grocery, petrol, clothing, DIY, travel and entertainment organisations in one single offer. Anyone spending money in any of the participating retailers will earn discount points redeemable in any of their stores.

AT&T has already set aside £8 million just to publicise the launch. Marcus Evans, a director of the promotions company PPP, which is advising AT&T on the launch, says: "It will have a very, very large impact on the high street. A great future will be created."

The question at the back of everyone's minds is, will "customer loyalty", like more traditional price wars, end up being just another zero-sum game for marketers? Probably, but consumers will benefit.

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مكتبة من الأصل

What is the BBC to do? The government wants not only back-to-basics, 1950s values but also a free market, in which, says Roger Graef, sex and violence will run riot. At risk is Britain's cultural identity



Michael Ignatieff's *Blood and Belonging*, revealing the dangers of a combative isolationism



The British are opting for sex-spiced TV, as in *Lady Chatterley* (left) and *The Singing Detective*



Sex comes again in the well-crafted *Buddha of Suburbia*, although *The Sun* (inset) disapproved

The government views broadcasting like local government, supporting two opposing ideas before breakfast: devolution and centralisation. Much of what passes for its policy on broadcasting speaks of satisfying viewers' wishes, and removing regulation — hence the weakened ITC replacing the old IBA, and the complete freedom from regulation of cable and satellite companies.

In this free-for-all, foreign media giants are preparing to move in on British television and cable companies. At the same time, the government restricts ITV franchise holders from consolidating into world-class players. It has treated the BBC with the same inconsistency: first urging it to invest in satellite (remember DBS?), then it blames the corporation for spreading itself too thin, demands wholesale reorganisation and editorial restraint and cuts the World Service budget.

Now "back to basics" includes a critique of sex and violence on television, lumping the two together, as is so often done, to suggest that the depiction of either or both promotes moral decay rather than reflecting it.

But the predicament facing champions both of morality and the free market is that when left to its own devices, many "customers" choose sex or violence, or both. The last episode of the witty and well-made *Buddha of Suburbia*, on BBC2, attracted the advance opprobrium of *The Sun* for its orgiastic sex scene; it then chastised

Help the BBC survive the American attack

its readers for helping to double the series' viewing figures. The high ratings for BBC's *Lady Chatterley*, if proof was needed, that many viewers like sex enough to put up with productions that would otherwise slip into oblivion.

On issues concerning sex, politicians are at their most hypocritical: in a decade when videos and films became ever more explicit, one scene in Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective* (BBC1) stood for a decade of alleged obscene display. That prudishness now seems ludicrous to anyone who has stayed in an international hotel room and seen the variety of porn on offer through cable and satellite.

A growing number of links are being forged into the global telecommunications network. The result of these links is not just a huge commercial "opportunity" which is being used as the basis to argue for the privatisation of the BBC in some quarters. It offers a major threat to British cultural values. The erosion of a coherent and recognisable set of British values — for all the diversity of class, race and religion that is contained

within such a description (itself the subtext of *Buddha*) — makes the call for "back to basics" as implausible as Canute trying to stop the tide.

British telecommunications have evolved slowly since the war: from steam radio to black-and-white television, to ITV in the 1950s, to three channels, then four, and video in the 1980s. Although films have been increasingly American, the vast majority of television output has been home-grown. But this year we have suddenly been connected to 20 more channels via the Astra satellite expansion in a month than the entire history of British media.

Most of these new channels show largely American programmes or movies, apart from news or sport. As viewers of BSkyB and morning television know, a growing proportion of British and European

output is itself modelled on the upbeat, breezy "feel-good" tone of American television.

Moreover, by the end of the decade, if the telecoms boffins have their way, our telephones and computers will bypass the television transmitters to give an infinite choice of programming — likely to be dominated by output from America. Such unlimited access will make nonsense of any attempt to sustain standards of taste and decency with the care and attention they have so far received in Britain.

The French are already alert to the dangers to their culture

To expand their already dominant position, the Americans have been campaigning vigorously to remove the EC quota of 50 per cent European-made material as part of the Gatt negotiations. The French, as ever more sensitive to the preservation of their culture, are already alert to this and have been

forging cultural alliances that have been greeted here largely by mockery. But the fierceness with which Maastricht was resisted in some quarters seems curiously absent in the face of a far more pervasive loss of influence — over British culture itself.

Swingeing cuts in the budgets of the BBC World Service, the library service and the Arts Council seem perverse and short-sighted in the extreme at such a time. These are the very institutions which promulgate and protect the stuff of living, differentiated local and national culture against the mass media.

The links between British broadcasting, film, the arts and culture are elaborate but fragile. They are seriously at risk from foreign investors taking control of British media with government blessing. Its unwavering belief in the free market not only brings with it a likely increase in internationalised and wordless sex and violence — directly contrary to the government's declared policy — but it will also sever the lifeline to local film makers, actors, theatre companies, and orchestras.

NEWSBITES

The one that got away

THE RADIO Authority need not be too downhearted over the Henley Centre's suggestion this week that privatising Radio 1 would not, after all, be in the best interests of the commercial radio sector.

The authority will be given many more stations to regulate when the 105-108 MHz frequency band, used by private radio operators such as taxis, water and electricity boards, and bus companies, is handed over some time during the next two years to the heritage department, which in turn is expected to pass it to the authority.

Analysts at Coopers & Lybrand say that the authority is likely to use the new FM range for a mix of regional and local services, with up to 60 services nationally and potentially four London-wide services.

Space shock

A NEW threat looms over the newspaper and magazine industry in the form of a European Commission directive on "distance selling" or classified advertising, which is worth almost £2 billion to UK publishers and advertisers.

According to the Advertising Association, the directive would require all classified ads asking for payment by cheque, postal order or credit card to include so much information on the nature of the advertiser and the kind of transaction envisaged that many forms of classified ad would become unworkable.

Penning it

THE American National Writers' Union is preparing a lawsuit against some of America's biggest newspapers and computer information services to determine whether authors and journalists should get paid extra when their articles are reproduced elsewhere by electronic means.

Sun spots

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● Gotcha is published by Signet books, £4.99.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

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THEATRE page 34

A new play set in
Cromwell's Ireland
raises disturbingly
modern questions

ARTS

LITERATURE page 35

VAT on books: would
it mean the end for
many specialist
publishers and dealers?

BOOKS ADD
VALUE TO LIFE
SO DON'T TAX
READING!

He wants the world and he wants it now

Turn on prime-time ITV and you will see Marcus Plantin at work, chasing ratings. Andy Lavender meets the scheduler on a mission to kill

If you settle down to watch ITV this evening, you may not realise that the channel you know and love — home of *Strike It Lucky*, *Blind Date* and *Des O'Connor Tonight* — has recently undergone one of the most radical changes in its 38-year history. Until the beginning of this year, ITV programmes in prime-time — the treasured period between 7pm and 10.30pm — were commissioned and scheduled by a committee formed of representatives from the 15 regional ITV companies. All that has changed.

Now everything in prime-time, as well as some of the daytime schedule, is the responsibility of a lean team at ITV's gleaming new Network Centre. Network director and scheduler-extraordinaire is Marcus Plantin, previously director of programmes at LWT. Plantin faces a tall but not impossible order. He needs to maintain the channel's pre-eminence in delivering huge audiences. But he must win more of the viewers in the ABC1 income bracket (deemed to be cash-rich and lifestyle-conscious) that are so beloved of the advertisers.

His answer so far has been to create different areas of appeal: soap opera and game shows early in the evening, then drama at 9pm, which itself illustrates the way he is reshaping the channel. "I think you can introduce drama that breaks the mould," he says. "Last year I ran three television films with Rik Mayall, which were quite dangerous. They didn't get huge volume audiences — about eight million — but they got a specific demographic. Ratings are always the bottom line, but they can be evaluated in a much more sophisticated way than simply as bulk."

A persuasive demonstration of Plantin's scheduling skill is his own roster of meetings last Friday afternoon. Consider the mutterings that ITV will allow factual programming to wither; or that the channel has little appeal to a young adult audience. The discussions were precisely about ITV's welter of factual programmes and its search for a new Saturday night youth show. Not to mention

much trumpeting about a new deal with Columbia Tristar, which secures the supply of feature films including *Basic Instinct*, *Dracula* and *A Few Good Men*.

This, then, is the new face of ITV: as populist as ever; as serious as the BBC; and as innovative as Channel 4. Or at least, that is how it is presenting itself — a timely move considering that last night the Directors Guild of Great Britain launched a campaign to counter "tabloid" television. In any case, you can hardly argue when Plantin suggests that, in the past, "ITV probably did underestimate its audience."

The BBC's Christmas schedule is due out on December 6. Plantin has a copy already

Let us assume that this is indeed a normal Friday afternoon. It certainly illuminates the range of Plantin's responsibilities. The first meeting is with Stuart Prebble, Network Centre's controller of factual programmes. Prebble reports that the defence law- yers in the James Bulger murder trial will not be offering any evidence, so the case will probably close on Wednesday or Thursday. A *World in Action* special is planned. What should it replace? Wednesday is easy: that night's *Crime Story* at 9pm can be held over. The difficulty is with Thursday, where the only obvious slot is 7.30pm. Is that too early, given the material the case covers? Plantin is uncharacteristically quiet and no decision is made.

The case illustrates the way the new ITV operates, however. Plantin wants to be able to move fast if necessary, in response to current events. (He makes much of the fact that, for instance, he cleared the schedule in order to run *Fighting for Gemma*, the programme on leukaemia clusters screened a couple of weeks ago.)

The rest of Prebble's business is less pressing. The *South Bank Show* wants an extra slot. Sir David Frost has an idea for a series. ("Strangely enough," Prebble says, "it's the best idea on this I've come across.")

The *Morning Service* is also discussed. Currently it falls within a wraparound religious magazine programme. Should one production company be responsible for the whole package? "My spies at



"Ratings are the bottom line, but they can be evaluated in a much more sophisticated way than simply as bulk," says Marcus Plantin, who wants to attract more ABC1 viewers

Anglia tell me you're interested in them producing everything," Prebble says.

"Everyone I meet says that," Plantin says. "I try to be upbeat."

This is very believable; but Plantin also has a habit of getting to the point. Moving to a conference room, he meets two executives from the production company Rapid TV, who are pitching for a new project. Plantin wants to run two different one-hour series in 1994 targeted at 16-to-24-year-olds, a lucrative target for advertisers, and a group of viewers that is currently staying away from ITV in droves.

"Your company is known to be ahead of the trend," Plantin says to the young Turks sitting opposite

him. They nod. "We don't want to be derivative. We don't want to be the son of *The World*." More nodding. So far, so good.

"This is the sort of show that should hit the schedule around the end of February," Plantin says.

"What about your infrastructure? How would you support this?"

If the Rapid team catch their breath, it's not visible. "Normally," one of them says, "people say to us there's no space for anything until 1997."

The real excitement comes late in the afternoon. The billings for programmes on the other channels released on Friday. Tony Everden, the network planner, brings them to Plantin, and the two

men scan them with the excitement of schoolboys poring over a stash of illicit literature.

Amid the indecipherable grunts and nods, the ringing of programmes with a pencil, the drawing of arrows and stars, it becomes clear that scheduling is a matter of low cunning as much as high artistry. The main interest is in bashing BBC1.

"Goodbye, *Telly Addicts*," Plantin says cheerfully. He arrives at Saturday's billings. "We've been moving *Gladiators* incrementally five minutes down the schedule, entering *Noel's House Party* territory, where it beats it three-to-one," he says. "We should increase the entry. There's the last episode of

Harry, against *The Bill*. Which will kill it. We'll win all that."

The BBC's Christmas schedule is due out on December 6. Plantin has a copy of it in front of him. Where does it come from? "Our job is to get last-minute information on our competitors, from sources various," he says smoothly. "It's not handed on a plate."

It would be wrong to assume that BBC1 is ITV's only real competition. Channel 4 now sells its own

airtime to advertisers (previously the ITV cartel was responsible for this), so is a direct competitor.

A new American series, *NYPD Blue*, will begin in January on Channel 4. Plantin has his offensive mapped out. "We're going to

kill it with films," he says. "We're going to make sure that *NYPD Blue* doesn't even get sampled."

He smells blood, and smiles as he says it. He talks of looking towards "more risk-taking ventures" in order, really, to steal a march. There is a scheduling problem, of course. "The network schedule finishes at 10.30pm, after *News at Ten* — which will not be moved in the foreseeable future," he says. "The very areas in which we might want to experiment are not available to us."

He'd obviously like them to be. "Well, I don't want to get into that," he says. "The 15 ITV companies have found their champion, but they must also fight their own corners."



Paul Weller in thrilling, fret-melting action at the Albert Hall

ROCK CONCERT: No Jam, no Style Council, no holding back

That's entertainment ...

Musicians, like the rest of us, rarely cast off entirely the behavioural patterns of their formative years. Paul Weller has tried harder than most to do so since breaking up the Jam at the peak of their popularity in 1982, first throwing himself into the dreary, ersatz soul of the Style Council and now emerging as a solo artist with an infinitely more inspired repertoire that echoes the bucolic psychedelia of the Woodstock generation.

But for all his latterday sophistication there was no mistaking the punk provenance of Weller's performing style as he strode briskly on to the Albert Hall stage, strapped on his guitar and without preamble launched into a whiplash version of "Into Tomorrow". The crowd were on their feet, surging forward to the foot of the stage before the first chorus.

Weller, looking casual but smart in a dark shirt and white jeans, permitted himself a single, tight-lipped smile, as he and his four-piece band despatched the number with terse authority. The song's mystical mood,

Paul Weller
Albert Hall

underpinned by more than a hint of latent aggression, set the tone for what gradually developed into a spectacular performance.

At 35, Weller's features are no less chiselled than in his youth, but the angles are now softened by a floppy hair arrangement drooping well below his ears. The deep voice, once so glottal and thuggish in its delivery, is now more rounded and resonant and on gentle numbers such as "Foot Of The Mountain", he sounded, however improbably, like a younger, thrusting version of Eric Clapton: masculine, world-weary and unmistakably English.

In technical terms, Weller's scope as a musician has long been underestimated. But whether playing the jazzy, ninth-chord trills of "Amongst Butterflies", or soloing pugnaciously on "This Is No Time", a new, unreleased song with a bruising funk

rhythm in a strange time signature, he continued to observe the one, great punk maxim: you don't hang about.

Such swift economy of expression served him well, lending dramatic tension to everything from a slightly snatched version of "Sunflower", to the one long number, "Shadow Of The Sun", which developed into an extended free-form work-out of considerable flair. Even when playing the delicate, acoustic guitar-led "Wild Wood" or seated at a piano with his back to the audience during "Holy Man", there was an edgy, physical quality to his delivery that could not have been further removed from the creeping wooliness that greater maturity often brings.

Much to his credit, Weller also resisted the temptation to trade on former glories, eschewing all material from his days with the Style Council and the Jam. And it certainly wasn't needed to bolster either his current crop of songs or this sterling performance.

DAVID SINCLAIR



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RADIO: Theatre of the absurd under the communists in Poland

Lifting the iron curtain on the arts

Back in the communist days, I asked a Polish musician who the socialist realist composers were. "Those who're dead and those who say they are," he replied. Communism could not make head or tail of music, so it was allowed to a considerable extent to go its own way in the more liberal communist regimes, especially since "culture" earned both prestige and foreign currency abroad.

This is one reason why *Polskat*, Radio 3's three-week celebration of the Polish arts, has such a lot of music to offer.

In the theatre it was different. There, ideas could be dangerous to communists. Classics were allowed, but

new playwrights were held on a tight rein.

The *Tangled Web*, a good survey of Polish theatre on Saturday night, brought out another point about the communist attitude to the theatre. The Polish drama that excited most interest both at home and in the West in the 1960s and 1970s was the kind of physical, almost wordless creations of Grotowski and Kantor — a sort of anguished mime. It may have been an antidote to socialist realism,

but this kind of theatre also suited the communist book because it could not make precise political points.

Now the Polish theatre is flourishing. The *Stary*, the main theatre in Cracow, is surviving, with its powerful repertoire of classics and new foreign plays; but there are 65 former state theatres in Poland, today almost all without money or audiences.

Slawomir Mrozek was one of the writers who occasionally managed to get witty,

satirical plays past the censor in the later years of communism. On Sunday Radio 3 offered an excellent production of his radio play, *The Slaughterhouse*.

This is a fantasy about a young, mother-dominated violinist who gives up everything for what he considers the imperishable truths of art, and contrives to acquire Paganini's genius in exchange for bringing his marble statue to life by drawing a mouse-tache on it. Paganini, fed up

with genius, goes off to become a butcher.

But the young violinist's first concert as a genius is ruined by a pandemonium of screams and roars in the stomachs of the audience — the cries of all the animals the butcher has killed. The young musician flies to the other extreme. He decides now that there is no certainty in art, only in death — and his next performance will be the slaughter of live animals on the stage...

Mrozek builds up the crazy logic brilliantly, teasing us with its plausibility and making the young man (well-played by Nigel Anthony) quite a sympathetic character. But the play is really a satire on the temptations of absolutism. "If you want to live, you'll have to forget about certainty," says the girl flautist with whom, at one stage, the violinist believes himself in love. In those words you hear Mrozek's calm and tolerant voice — a voice needed in Poland, with its long history of "idealistic" extremism.

DERWENT MAY

• Gorecki concerts, page 35

THEATRE: A strong historical drama; Brian Cox in Ibsen; and Battersea's lively double-bill

Modern echoes in old Ireland

CONRAD BLAKEMORE

The Clearing
Bush

TO SAY that Helen Edmundson's play will keep audiences on the edge of their seats is not to say anything special. At the Bush there is nowhere to be except on the edge of your seat if you wish to avoid sitting on the feet of the person behind you. All the same, Edmundson has adapted *Anna Karenina* and *The Mill on the Floss* for Shared Experience, and clearly has both the instinct for a good tale and the skill to tell it well. Whatever its limitations, *The Clearing* is a thoroughly absorbing piece — and, notwithstanding its 17th-century setting, a topical one too.

The place is County Kildare in the 1650s, and the subject Cromwell's ethnic cleansing. Those who supported the King against Parliament are either being hanged or forcibly resettled in far-flung Connaught. Some are even being transported to the West Indies for the crime of being Irish and Catholic. But to the Calvinist governor of Kildare, this is a soft policy. "Why do not we bury them in pits so deep they will all be forgotten?" he suggests, not altogether rhetorically.

The play needs a more personal dimension, and gets in a depressing happy Anglo-Irish marriage, Robert (Adrian Rawlings), who is English, does what he can to help royalist neighbours threatened with confiscation of their farm. But, fearful for his own estate, he surreptitiously gives money to the Cromwellians. Madeleine (Susan Lynch), who is local, manages to offend the governor with the intensity of her pleas for her best friend, who has been seized by the Lord Protector's rampaging soldiery. It gradually becomes clear that nice Robert will sacrifice sweet Madeleine in order to keep his property and their infant son.

The references to Yugoslavia and

Repressed by the Cromwellians: Anna Livia Ryan and Susan Lynch in Helen Edmundson's *The Clearing*

Cambodia, as well as to present-day Ireland, are obvious, maybe too obvious. Stephen Boxer is one of those actors who seem always to be summoned to the rehearsal-room when a smooth and wintry character needs casting; but even he cannot have ventured further into Pol Pot fanaticism than he does here. His duty, he says, is to punish infidels and "re-educate" doubters. Those who are not with him are against him, and those

against him are whores and devils. The play has its melodramatic moments and its ironically "poetic" ones. Just because characters come from the nation that was to produce Synge and O'Casey, must they really keep saying things like "have you not washed me with your own sweat, soft hands and kissed the day from my face?" Such pseudo-Irishisms are the more irritating when the English ("it's alright, I expect too much of you")

speaks modern Hampstead or Fulham. But against that must be measured some decent characterisation and some fine acting — Michael O'Hagan and Linda Bassett, splendidly unpredictable as the embittered royalists — and the kind of narrative energy a 19th-century novelist would have envied. Whatever the caveats, Edmundson is well worth watching.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Frozen paths to glory

"It feels as though the skin has been flayed from my breast" — he gives the phrase an edge of terrible fear. But a masochistic thrill is in there too.

The element of posturing in this image also feels right, for there are times when Solness does pose grandiloquently. He did so at the top of the church spire exactly ten years before, when the 12-year-old Hilde fell in love with him, and he continues doing so.

The anger that comes roaring out of him seems the flip side of his evasive tactics — the strategy of a man who has

become afraid. Cox shows us this without losing that awareness of glory that floats around in his head, and gives a hint of little-boy charm when he sits wondering at Hilde's vitality with his hands held tightly between his knees, though there is a suggestion that if he did not keep them trapped they might rampage all over her.

Tom Piper's elegant set, furnished with chairs that surely come from a workshop of Scandinavian Shakers, also brings ice-covered mountains right up to the windows. The reasoning

behind this is that the Solness marriage is a frozen waste, but the waste is within and not around them. Neal's Hilde feels like a true breath of mountain vigour, her complexion is clear, her eyes sparkle, her walk has the spring of a climber. It seems a pity for these mountains to be glaciers. Morag Hood's beautifully spoken Mrs Solness reveals the social division within the marriage. But the chilling memory of her lost doll is spoken too quietly to bear its full importance. In this sensitive production (by Cox and John Crowley) something goes wrong at the end. We watch Solness climb a ladder until he disappears far above the crowd. This is so emphatic that we really need to see his abrupt descent.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Bantams in full fight

on a pram chassis, there is a frightening fight between two human bantams: a vicious swirl of beaked masks, bare flesh and flying clackers.

In an off-kilter kitchen — its floor all cranked like the family who live there — Shata (the superbly sluttish Stella Duffy) flaps tortillas against her inner thigh to the beat of live drums. Hobnobbing at red silences, she wishes Hector, her nephew, was putty in her hands. Angela, his little sister in a white smock and cardboard wings (Alexa Rosewood, a fierce-faced cherub with clouds of dark hair), skulks under the house and sees religious visions of

Roosters/White Biting Dog BAC, Battersea

Roosters/White Biting Dog BAC, Battersea

Roosters and from the opposite end of the continent, *White Biting Dog* make a fascinating couple: dark comedies dealing with sex, fraught childhood relationships, evil, death and salvation. Both scripts are a little confused and have problems finding funniness. However, Thompson's absurdist domestic farce is the voice of an exhilaratingly creative soul in free fall, laughing and acutely disturbed.

Director Janet Steel uses stage space with slightly less assurance than Schneiderman, but brings out terrific performances from Stella Duffy, transformed into a clumsy-bodied innocent; Philip Bliss, playing her emotionally dysfunctional, manipulating lover; and Tobe E. Byrne as his father, grinning breathily with sphagnum moss sticking out of his trunks.

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

LA BONNE CHANSON: Soprano Fiona Cameron (Glyndebourne, Scottish Opera, English Touring Opera) and Paul Whelan (winner of the *Londoner* prize, *Carroll Singer of the World 1989*) join forces with pianist Julius Drake for a programme including Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Duparc, Poulenc and Copland. Blackheath Concert Hall, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (01-463 0100) Tonight, 7.30pm.

MAUREEN MCGOVERN: Now seemingly settled into the persona of an unsmiling cabaret artist, McGovern never fails to delight with her spectacular multi-octave range and a keen eye and ear for a well-crafted show. Green Room, Café Royal, Regent Street W1. Tickets can be booked in person from Café Royal or by phone from TicketCity (01-467 8977) Tonight, Fri and Sat, from 7.30pm.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT: Neil Bartlett's much-toured show (due in New York next January) takes an ambulatory tour of the history of the late 1950s. Music by Nicolas Bloomfield. Royal Court, St. Martin's Lane, SW1 (01-730 1745). Previewing, 7.30pm and 10.30pm, Sat. Nov 26, 8pm. Until Dec 18.

MARIA JOAO PIRES: A pianist whose performances have been described as

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

nothing short of a small miracle appears this evening as part of the international piano season. Her programme includes Bach Partita in B flat, English Suite in G minor and Schubert's Concerto in B flat.

ELSEWHERE
CHIFF: Christmas theatricals are in full swing and it is opening day for Mike Kenny's adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*. The Shrewsbury Theatre Company has successfully combined the narratives of original texts with spellbinding modern special effects in previous years so there are high hopes for this season.

GLASGOW: Two world premieres will be heard this evening, both commissioned by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. *Stratoclyde Concerto* No 8 and *MacDonald Dances* will be performed along with Haydn's *Symphony No 22*. The Philharmonie and Scottish Chamber Orchestra conduct. The soloists are Peter Donohoe, piano, and Ursula Leventhal, bassoon. City Hall, Candelage (01-227 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **Issue full, returns only**
■ **Some seats available**
■ **Seats at all prices**

Russian Alexander Gelfand: Pl. Barrow Court, SW1, EC2 (01-467 8891). Tonight, Thurs, 7.15pm; Fri, Thurs, 2pm. Last performance.

■ **MR DIRECTOR:** New Play Workshop, 11, St. Martin's Lane, SW1 (01-730 1745). A black comedy, about the theatre and the world, set in a 14th-century locked up in an isolation unit. Orange Tree, Clarendon Road, Richmond TW9 4AB (01-894 3533). Tonight, Sat, 7.45pm; Mon-Sat, 4pm. Last week of performances.

■ **MOONLIGHT:** Ian Horn and Anna Massey in the West End transfer of Peter's play, a soul child, set against his family, ages against his approaching death. Comedy, Pl. St. Martin's Lane, SW1 (01-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

■ **OLEANNA:** Power, politics and punishment at an American university. Great performance by David Suchet and Les Williams in Martin's Lane, SW1 (01-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

■ **ONE MAN:** Electrifying performances by Steven Berkoff in three solo plays: *Paul's Tale*, *Heart of Darkness*, and *Doog*, his historical, chilling view of the Holocaust. Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-494 8040). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ **RELATIVE VALUES:** Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

■ **Issue full, returns only**
■ **Some seats available**
■ **Seats at all prices**

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Reading the bottom line

VAT on books would have terrible consequences for publishers and for readers, writes Nicolette Jones

At the 1992 London Book Fair, Nigel Lawson admitted in an address to the book trade that in 1985, all through a phenomenally extensive public campaign against the imposition of VAT on books, he had never had the slightest intention as Chancellor of introducing any such tax. Why didn't he say so and save everyone all that time and trouble? Because when you are a politician, he explained, if you start making denials about rumoured policy, anything that isn't denied is understood to be true. You have to keep all your cards close to your chest, or you would be playing with an open deck. That would never do in politics.

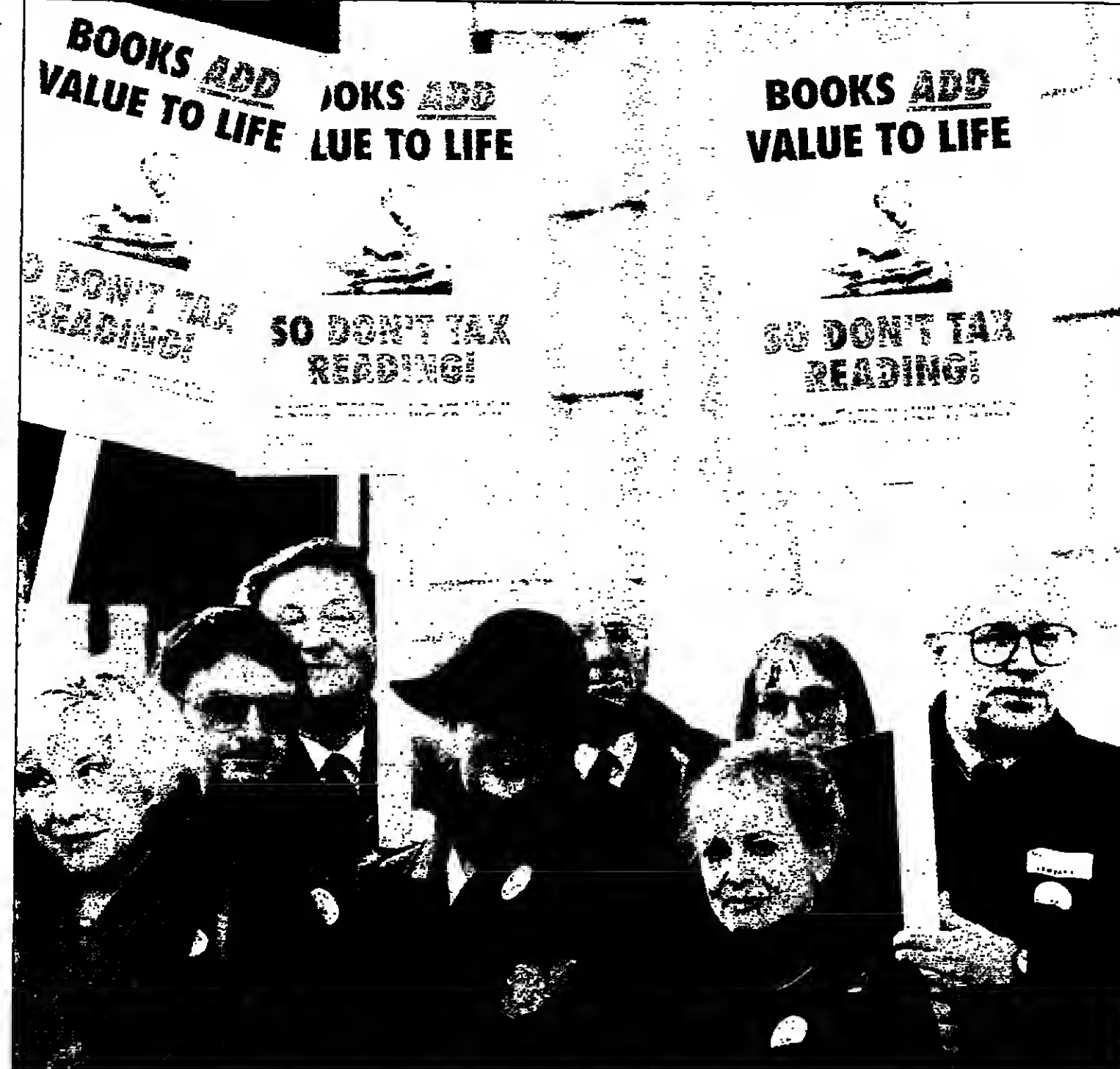
Last week, *The Sun* reported that Kenneth Clarke had dropped plans to impose VAT on books and newspapers this time round. But doubtless, on the Lawson principle, there will be no confirmation or denial until November 30, Budget Day itself. The book trade is still holding its breath.

Since the word got round that the Chancellor was considering, as a revenue-raising measure, ending the tax-free status that publications have enjoyed for over 100 years, readers, authors, librarians, publishers and book-sellers have once again gone into action. Concerning their efforts in the "Books Add Value Campaign", they have been behind window displays and consciousness-raising events in book shops around Britain, the collating of pertinent economic projections and opinion polls, and, last week, the placard-waving delivery of a petition of a million signatures to Downing Street.

Strictly speaking, none of this effort should have been necessary. At the time of the last election, the chairman of the Conservative party gave a written assurance that if the Tories were re-elected there would be no VAT on books and periodicals. But in September this year, the Chancellor indicated in an interview in *The Daily Telegraph* that he had not made his mind up about the issue.

So if *The Sun* is wrong, what are the consequences likely to be. Would it really be so terrible to treat books like any other commercial product? Wouldn't it just mean paying a bit more for Barbara Cartlands and an extra 4p for a tabloid? Unfortunately, all the evidence is much more ominous than that. The figures, argue the anti-VAT campaigners, add up to a big minus for the government. The potential revenue from the introduction of VAT at 17.5 per cent would be an annual £720 million (0.5 per cent of the £50 billion budget deficit). But the government stands to lose in two areas: directly by undermining the book trade and indirectly by undermining efforts to improve literature and education at large. Both would be costly outcomes.

Independent research concludes that VAT of 17.5 per cent on book prices would lead to a fall in sales of at least 15 per cent. Contrary to an all-



Celebrities, readers, authors, librarians, publishers and book-sellers have concerted their opposition in the "Books Add Value Campaign"

too-widespread perception that publishers are a bunch of fat cats who rake in big profits whilst spending all day on long lunches and who need a bit of shaking up, the truth is that the industry now operates efficiently on narrow profit margins — of a mere 4-5 per cent. In the last three years it has lost one in five employees.

The decrease in sales, as Anthony Cheetham, chief executive of Orion publishers, has commented in the trade journal *The Book Seller*, is one that "no general publishing house can face without sliding into serious loss". Inevitably, fewer books would be produced — and specialist, literary and children's books would be those publishers could least afford. Book shops would be meaner and more limited.

Those that survived, that is, a 4 per cent profit margin is something a good many book sellers dream of. A 1991 survey revealed that over a third of book sellers failed to make any profit at all; they earn enough only to

make themselves a modest salary. The majority of book shops in this country are small independents, often family-run businesses that would not survive a 15 per cent drop in trade — and are not in a position to absorb a 17.5 per cent price hike. Fewer books would come out, book shops would close, and some 10,000 to 15,000 jobs would be lost.

Those are immediate consequences. But what that 15 per cent drop in book sales represents for society at large is surely counter to declared government policy. John Major in his Guildhall speech this month put much emphasis on the importance of education, and government and business alike have backed initiatives to improve standards of literacy. A shaming one in eight adults over 16 in Britain have serious difficulties in reading and writing; a third of 14-year-olds have a reading age of 11 or less; 40 per cent of 16 to 19-year-olds

in further education lack basic literacy (and numeracy) skills; and a 1992 survey estimated the cost of losses to UK industry because of poor basic skills at £8.4 billion. Books in this context are not a luxury.

It is precisely those who most need to improve their skills who would be most discouraged by a price increase. Parents buying for their children, students and the unemployed seeking to enhance their qualifications would be hardest hit. Zero-rated status is not a question of simply subsidising a middle-class hobby; the less well-off spend three times more of their income on books, newspapers and periodicals than the better-off, and nearly three-quarters of the books sold every year are bought by pensioners and the under-24s.

There are those who argue that a blanket zero-rating for all publications is not sufficiently discriminating. They suggest VAT exemption only for academic or educational publications. But as Alan Giles, MD

of Waterstone's book shops, remarks: "There is a danger of taking a narrow view of literature. Learning may be a life-long experience. And what to one person would be a textbook is entertainment to another." Thomas Hardy is one man's set text, another's holiday read. Even best-sellers may be pedagogic witness. Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*. The line between education and recreation could never be drawn.

Perhaps for a Chancellor the only line that matters is the bottom line. There is plenty of proof that illiteracy is expensive — leading to lost business and the paying out of state benefits. The sums alone work against imposing VAT on books. But to discourage a nation from reading is to impoverish it. It would be a destructive act, shutting people off from their own cultural and intellectual history, and limiting their understanding, their pleasure and their fulfilment. Economics aside, there would be a high price to pay.

LONDON CONCERTS Accent on insight

EVEN in those amazing years when his pioneering period-instrument group, the Concentus Musicus Vienna, drove a coach and horses through every cherished performing tradition in Baroque music, Nikolaus Harnoncourt was capable of producing breathtaking gracefulness just when you least expected it. Some stroke of ravishing phrasing would seduce even those who thought that his blistering rampages through the *Sancus* of Bach's B Minor Mass was an act of Attila-like vandalism. Nowadays, Harnoncourt is as often found directing modern-instrument orchestras as period performances; he has struck up a particularly fruitful relationship with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra. But he has never lost that endearing knack for tempering his rampunctious rhythmic drive, and his penchant for trampling received wisdoms, with moments of beguiling sensuality. And in the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which brings together some of the Continent's top young professional players, he seems to have found a perfect vehicle for his invigorating ideas.

Many of the timbres produced in this all-Beethoven programme came straight out of the period-instrument handbook. Here was string-playing of immense suppleness and agility, laying the emphasis on attack rather than creaminess (though the tone, in its sinuous way, was

COE/Harnoncourt Barbian

just as fine). Every accent — and Beethoven wrote a good many in the "Eroica" Symphony — was a knife-thrust: a lunge that was quick, incisive and effective, but just as swiftly withdrawn. To that was added some remarkable wind sonorities, and a brass section that crackled with life and went for its notes with admirable boldness — occasionally, but forgivably, at the expense of absolute perfection. Altogether, this was the kind of Beethoven playing that might have warmed the heart of the composer himself.

The speed, chosen by Harnoncourt were not in themselves remarkable, but his way of encouraging the players to put daylight between the chords gave the illusion of lightness and speed. And he has not lost that matchless gift for elegant phrasing. He preceded the symphony with extracts from Beethoven's ballet, *Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus* — a sensible choice, because the symphony's finale famously takes up the ballet's final theme. This, too, was delivered with implicit wit and an extraordinary palette of timbres. Harnoncourt should be tempted to London more often.

RICHARD MORRISON

Belief in Brazil

THE SIXTEEN, encouraged by Cultura Inglesa in Sao Paulo and the British Council, are investigating Brazilian music at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. On Monday they presented some of their results.

The worklist of José Mauricio Nunes Garcia as published in the *New Grove* encyclopaedia is dominated by sacred music, which is not surprising, since like many of his colleagues he was a priest. Yet on the evidence of the nine Funeral Responses, written in 1816, that is rather a shame.

Not that the music is bad; far from it. Often sonorously scored, it exhibits harmonic adventure and expressive intensity, a strange mixture of C.P.E. Bach and, at least to my innocent ears, later Mozart.

But what one detects, both in the sometimes rather Rossini-like solo vocal writing and in Nunes Garcia's acute response to the flavour of the moment, is an opera composer *manqué*. For all the good ideas it contained, this vast piece was intriguing rather than thrilling.

The three pieces we heard before it impressed less. The composers — Manuel Dias de Oliveira, José Joaquim Emérico Lobo de Mesquita,

The Sixteen St John's, Smith Square

and Joao de Deus Castro Lobo — all apparently worked in the rich state of Minas Gerais. Both Dias de Oliveira's brief *Angelus Domini*, and Lobo de Mesquita's *Gloria* took their cues principally from the Italian baroque concerto forms, yet without their harmonic interest, imagination and fire. Castro Lobo's own Funeral Responses, incredibly dating from 1832, showed deft touches of orchestration and word-painting (with a particularly effective solo bass setting at the words "De profundis"), but again the music seemed underdeveloped. Was there again an opera composer — struggling to get out?

Neat, well-turned performances came from the choir and orchestra of The Sixteen under Harry Christophers, and there was fine solo (and duet) work from Lynda Russell, Sarah Connolly, Andrew Murgatroyd and Michael Pearce.

STEPHEN PETTITT

BIG FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

LONDON
The Albery Theatre
The BFG

CHRISTMAS is coming and all over the country theatres are preparing for the annual invasion of tomorrow's generation of theatregoers.

David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's *The BFG* has been delighting children of all ages across the country and comes to London for a limited Christmas season. The Theatre Club has arranged a special price for members so that the whole family can enjoy this magical show, and if you want to make a really special treat for your children, you can enjoy it free at a nearby restaurant.

If Sophie had been snatched from her bed by Fleshfup-eater, Gizzardgulper or any of the other giants she would have been guzzled like a wiff-whiddle. Instead she has been whisked to Giant Country by The Big Friendly Giant who is far too nice and jumbly for that sort of stuff. Not everyone is nice in Giant Country and when Sophie hears that the Bonecruncher, Childchewer and the rest of the giants are off to England to eat human beans she knows they must be stopped!

FIND out exactly what happens next with our exclusive Theatre Club offer. A group of four, either two adults and two

THE TIMES
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children or one adult and three children, can go to the show between November 22 and January 15 (excluding all Saturdays and performances between December 18 and January 3) for just £36, saving up to £18.

To complete your trip you can enjoy a meal at Tony Roma's restaurant where children eat free on production of their theatre ticket. Telephone 071-867 1115.



Anthony Pedley as Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Wed 1 Dec 7.45 pm
HAYDN Sym No. 7 'Le Midi'
MOZART Piano Conc. No. 25 K503
PÄRT Cantus in Memoriam
Benjamin Britten
MAKING Double Concerto
for string orch, pno & perc
Paul Sacher Conductor
Ivan Moravec Soloist
01-215 Box Office 071-225 0000

FESTIVALS: Gorecki in Huddersfield and Manchester

Mysterious appeal

THE Gorecki enigma isn't going to be explained even by the efforts of the BBC's "Folkies" programmes and the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival put together. In fact, after a weekend of both of them, it is more worrying than ever. How did he get from *Sonnti*, which burst in on the 1960s with such aggressively explosive energy that it comes as a shock even today, to the Concerto-Cantata which has just been given its first British performances by Carol Wincenc with Yan Pascal Tortelier and the BBC Philharmonic?

For the fans, who filled every Huddersfield Festival space in which Gorecki was scheduled to appear (though they were little in evidence at the BBC PO's "Folkies" concert in Manchester), there is no problem: the composer of the Third Symphony is incapable of banality. Indeed, listening to the first British performance of his *Beatus Vir* in the knowledge that it was written just a couple of years after that tortured symphony — at the request of Karol Wojtyla, who was still Cardinal of Krakow at the time — one is in no mood to doubt the religious and political inspiration behind it.

Any urge to press the fast-forward button, so as to accelerate the progress of its simple harmonic progressions to a pace which does not try the patience too hard, should be resisted.

The very slowness of it, the deliberate rhythms, the multi-repetitions of short phrases by both the baritone soloist and the chorus (on this occasion David Wilson-Johnson and the Huddersfield Choral Soci-



Henryk Gorecki: is the composer of the enormously successful Third Symphony incapable of banality?

ety) are all part of the rigorously unadorned, undetailed, timeless monumentality of the piece.

Tortelier and the BBC Philharmonic were in less secure circumstances in their Manchester concert, partly because there was no kind of festival atmosphere in the Free Trade Hall but mainly because they went straight on from a stunning revival of *Sonnti* to the first British performance of the Concerto-Cantata, which was roughly equivalent to the distance between supercharged creative energy and feeble gesturing.

Written a year or two ago for the flautist, Carol Wincenc, the Concerto-Cantata is basically a tarry construction with lengthy contemplations on solo flute (or alto flute) of the

same few intervals in recitative and arioso sections at the beginning and the end.

The middle section is a crudely assembled Concertino dominated by a devastatingly simple rhythm at devastatingly high dynamic levels slashed across at one point by what is actually an accelerated reminiscence of the arioso but what sounds like an ugly swathe of Shostakovich dragged screaming from its context.

Happily, for those who enjoy evidence of skill in composition at least as much as sheer bravery, both the Manchester and the Huddersfield concerts included Lutoslawski's early but still fascinating Concerto for Orchestra — and brilliantly done as well.

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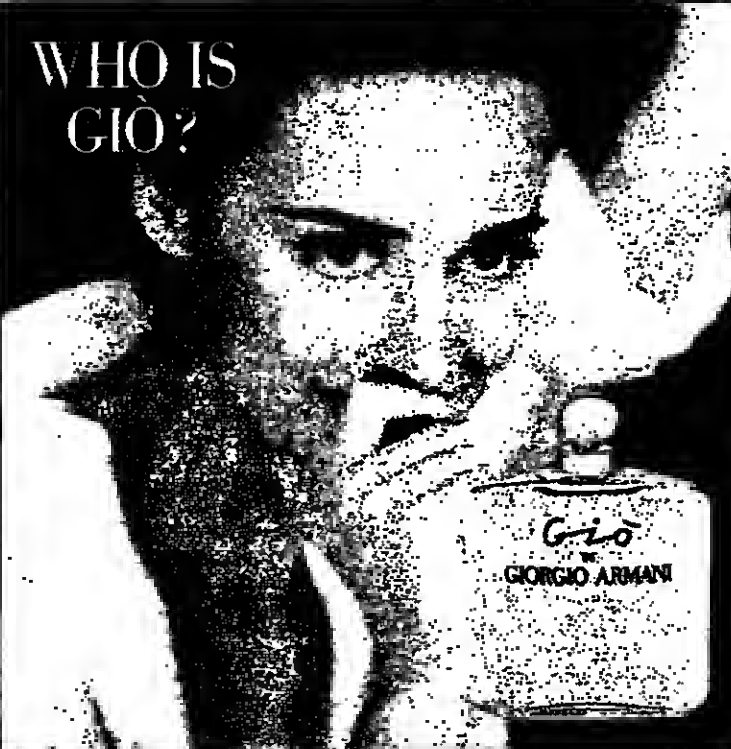
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Exit Taylor, pursued by Swedes and turnips

And so Graham Taylor has failed to emerge from the room with the loaded revolver in the bureau drawer. It was only to be expected. He will be buried under the epitaph: "He was a decent man, really. As turnips go."

A decent man, renowned for his love of Alan Smith and of the sound of his own voice: a man who did his best. He was a widely respected man, once, but that is going back a few years. Three years as England manager is all you need to lose your reputation, your self-respect and your youthful looks.

The fact of the matter is that managing England has become an impossible job. Managing a football team is an odd business in any case. No manager is master of his own destiny. His job stands or falls by the incipient tips of his striker, the volatile tem-

Simon Barnes says the expectations of the nation have made the task of managing the England football team a mission impossible

perament of his playmaker, the foul temper of his stopper, the nerve under the high ball of his goalie. He is forever the plaything of the cruciate ligaments and groin strains of outrageous fortune. A referee's momentary blindness, a linesman's fit of flag-happiness can change the course of his life.

But this iron rule becomes adamant for national team managers, in particular, for the England team manager. The England team selectors, in those far-off days before the job of manager was invented, had the ultimate good job: power without responsibility. These days, the England manager has the

worst responsibility without power.

He must operate in a system that is not merely neutral: it is actively hostile to the performance of his duties. Club football is genuinely opposed to the interests of the England team — the Welsh, Irish and Scottish teams as well, for that matter. Parochial self-interest rules English football.

But it is the expectation of the nation that makes the job impossible. Every quadrennium in which England fail to become World Cup champions is a national disaster. England ought to be the best in the world: this is the absurd national belief and it is re-

flected in the absurd media coverage of English international football.

Bobby Robson was hugely diminished by the job. He aged vividly before our eyes. He was given news acreage and borage that a prime minister would envy. The tabloids competed for the best dismissive headline: In The Name Of Allah, Go. It was a dreadful business: impossible to live through — and Robson was a success. He took England to the World Cup semi-finals; his playmaker's volatile temperament turned up trumps.

If success could not rescue Robson from vilification, what chance had Taylor? For Taylor failed every crucial test. *The Sun*, in a fit of tabloid dementia akin to genius, greeted the defeat by Sweden in the European championship a year ago, with that fateful headline:



How *The Sun* portrayed Taylor in June 1992

Sweden 2, Turnips 1. Taylor has been pursued by vegetables ever since.

The strain was too much for him. It is too much for virtually anybody. This has become the ultimately

undoable job. Which of us could do our jobs if a legion of highly-paid professional cynics was watching our every move, analysed every decision, photographed every agonising stage of decision-

making, quoted every word we said?

It is not surprising that Taylor cracked, having a mad rant at his critics before the disastrous match in Rotterdam. It is not even surprising that he had previously alienated a nation's sympathy by substituting Gary Lineker, a national love object, in his final match, with the ever-glorious Alan Smith.

I feel sorry for Graham Taylor, even if he never was quite up to the job, for this is a worse job than being the captain of the England cricket team: at least a cricket captain can make a gallant century in a losing cause.

The England managership is a pinless grenade. Anybody who takes it on can expect to be cruelly diminished, to age visibly, to become a national laughing stock and the butt of a million jokes — even if he wins. Alas poor Turnip.

Decent man who accepted price of failure

By JOHN GOODBODY

GRAHAM Taylor was a decent man whose lack of success cost him his job as England team manager and brought him national ridicule. He knew from the experiences of his predecessor, Bobby Robson, that in managing the national team in the national game, every move would be criticised and that when England failed to qualify for the finals of the 1994 World Cup, he would be forced to resign. Otherwise, he would eventually be sacked.

Taylor accepted how the media would treat him. When he was appointed in July 1990, he said: "People say there is a lot of 'stick' that goes with the job, but I am ready for that. I will not shrink from taking the praise if I succeed, so I will take the flak if I do not."

He had always been involved with the press and football because his father, Tom, was a journalist who covered Scunthorpe United. Born in Workson in 1944, Graham would probably have been head boy of Scunthorpe Grammar School, but he had signed for Grimsby Town, for whom he made 139 League appearances. He later played 150 times for Lincoln City before a hip injury ended his career.

However, Taylor already had qualifications for being a manager. He was the youngest person, at the age of 21, to receive a full Football Association coaching badge. In 1972, at the age of 28, he was appointed manager of Lincoln, the youngest at the time in the League.

He led Lincoln to the fourth division title and then guided Watford from the fourth division to second place in the first and to the 1984 FA Cup final. Taylor then took Aston Villa from the second division to second place in the first division in 1990.

His wife, Rita, and two adult daughters have always been supportive as he has been incessantly involved in football. He was successively manager of the England Youth, under-20 and B teams before succeeding Robson. His next move is not so obvious.

Manager who led England's football team into blind alley ends his reign

Games that mattered exposed his frailties

By KEITH PIKE

THE team Graham Taylor inherited from Bobby Robson was, it could be argued, among the top four in the world. Only missed penalties by Pearce and Waddle had cost England a place in the 1990 World Cup final. Forty months, 38 matches and 59 players later, the team he bequeathed yesterday is not among the 24 that will contest the global crown in the United States next year. England's recession has been acute.

Taylor has said that his record compares favourably with his predecessors, but the truth is that, of the matches that mattered and against the leading opposition, England won precious few.

His honeymoon period lasted one day short of a year. From his opening game, when Gary Lineker secured a 1-0 victory over Hungary at Wembley on September 12, 1990, to his thirteenth, when Germany, the world champions, won by the same score at the same venue, England had not tasted defeat. In that time, they had also made a reasonable start to their qualifying campaign for the 1992 European championship finals in Sweden.

But by then Taylor's first questionable, inconsistent team selections had already attracted criticism. The team for his second game in charge, a 2-0 victory over Poland in a European championship qualifying match, had been unchanged, but it was the only one throughout his reign that this was to be the case and for the next qualifying match, against Ireland in Dublin, Paul Gascoigne, England's most inventive player, was dropped, to be replaced not by a midfield "workhorse" but by another, less gifted playmaker in Gordon Cowans.

Within 12 months, Taylor had tried three dozen players:

unbeaten England might have been, but uncertainty was obvious. Beardsley had already been prematurely discarded and Waddle was to play only one more game for his country.

Lineker's goal in Poznan, which guaranteed England's place in Sweden, victory over France at Wembley and a draw against Brazil partly restored Taylor's reputation, but it was only a temporary reprieve. Injuries to John Barnes and Mark Wright disrupted his plans before the European championship finals and, in retrospect, the goalless draw against Denmark, the eventual winners, in the opening game was reasonable. But a tame performance and another goalless draw against France had the knives out.

They were to be sharpened three days later as England bowed out of the competition in disarray. Ahead against Sweden, they lost the match and finished with Lineker, their captain and inspiration, disconsolate on the sidelines. Scorer of 13 goals under Taylor and needing one more to equal Bobby Charlton's record, he had been replaced, bizarrely, by Alan Smith. It was to be his final game for England and Taylor's decision was to be frequently thrown back at him.

TAYLOR'S SELECTIONS

Appearances in brackets
Goalkeepers
T Flowers (1), N Martin (3), O Seaman (8), C Woods (27)
Defenders
T Aspinall (1), D Beardsley (2), E Barrett (3), G Charles (2), K Curle (3), L Dixon (20), D Dorrigo (11), R Jones (2), M Keown (11), G Mabbutt (3), G Palmer (10), P Parker (7), S Pearce (25), G Stevens (5), O Walker (34), N Winterburn (1), M Wright (13)
Midfielders
D Batty (14), G Cowans (1), P

ON REFLECTION					
ENGLAND'S RESULTS UNDER GRAHAM TAYLOR					
Date	Opposition (venue)	Result	Date	Opposition (venue)	Result
12.9.90	Hungary (h)	W 1-0	17.5.92	Brazil (h)	D 1-1
17.10.90	Poland (h)	W 2-0	3.6.92	Finland (a)	W 2-1
14.11.90	Ireland (a)	D 1-1	11.6.92	Denmark (Sweden)	D 0-0
6.2.91	Cameroun (h)	W 2-0	14.5.92	France (Sweden)	D 0-0
28.3.91	Ireland (h)	D 1-1	17.5.92	Sweden (Sweden)	L 1-2
1.5.91	Turkey (a)	W 1-0	9.9.92	Spain (a)	L 0-1
21.5.91	Soviet Union (h)	W 3-1	14.10.92	Norway (h)	D 1-1
25.5.91	Argentina (h)	D 2-2	18.11.92	Turkey (h)	W 4-0
1.8.91	Australia (a)	W 1-0	17.2.93	San Marino (h)	W 6-0
3.8.91	New Zealand (a)	W 1-0	31.3.93	Turkey (a)	W 2-0
8.8.91	New Zealand (a)	W 2-0	28.4.93	Holland (h)	D 2-2
12.9.91	Malaysia (a)	W 4-2	29.5.93	Poland (a)	D 1-1
11.9.91	Germany (h)	L 0-1	2.6.93	Norway (a)	L 0-2
18.10.91	Turkey (h)	W 1-0	9.6.93	United States (a)	L 0-2
13.11.91	Poland (a)	D 1-1	13.6.93	Brazil (a)	D 1-1
18.2.92	France (h)	W 2-0	18.6.93	Germany (h)	L 1-2
25.2.92	Czechoslovakia (a)	D 2-2	8.9.93	Poland (h)	W 3-0
29.4.92	CIS (a)	D 2-2	13.10.93	Holland (a)	L 0-2
12.5.92	Hungary (a)	W 1-0	17.11.93	San Marino (a)	W 7-1

England warmed up for their World Cup campaign with a dreadful display against Spain in Santander and dropped a qualifying point against Norway at Wembley, but with David Platt assuming Lineker's goalscoring mantle, comprehensive victories over Turkey and San Marino and a 2-0 win in Izmir, meant that England approached the critical game against Holland at Wembley in April in good heart. Goals by Platt and Barnes put them 2-0 ahead, but then Bergkamp's reply and Walker's concession of a late penalty allowed the Dutch to escape

with a draw.

Worse was to follow. A performance even Taylor likened to that of "headless chickens" in Chorzow saw England get a fortuitous 1-1 draw against Poland thanks to a long overdue goal by fan Wright. Four days later, another much-changed side, clearly at odds with Taylor's tactics, went down 2-0 to Norway in Oslo.

Further humiliation came quickly. The US Cup, a tournament that was supposed to have been an exercise in acclimatisation for the World Cup finals, began with a 2-0 defeat against the United States in Boston that even an honourable draw against Brazil and an unlucky defeat against Germany could not overshadow. It was the beginning of the end for Taylor.

A 3-0 victory in the World Cup return match against Poland gave England hope that all might not be lost. But when Holland beat them 2-0 in Rotterdam the game was as good as up, despite victory against San Marino. Yesterday, Taylor admitted his responsibility.

Norwich given spur to further progress

NORWICH banked £1.5 million yesterday, which could be merely a down payment on the rewards to come if, weather permitting, they can pull off another Uefa Cup surprise against Internazionale tonight.

Prospects for the first leg of the third-round game tie at Carrow Road depend on the severity of the overnight frost. The pitch is open to the weather because Norwich complied with Uefa regulations and cleared the snow from it, in case the Italians insisted on training.

If the pitch fails to pass the inspection of the Swiss referee this morning, the game will be rescheduled for Thursday evening. If conditions do not permit it to be played then, it could be off until the new year.

"Inter Milan have already advised us that they couldn't play until after Christmas," the Norwich chairman, Robert Chase, said. In that case, the second leg in Italy on December 8 might become the first.

Despite the wintry conditions, there was no gloom around Carrow Road yesterday

day as the club celebrated its biggest kit sponsorship deal, Mire Sports International, of Huddersfield, signing up for four years. On top of the basic £1.5 million, the club can make another £5 million from performance-related payments in Europe and at home.

"It's a bit ambitious to think we could earn all that, but if we do as well in the next four years as we have in the last we are looking at around an extra £1 million," Chase said.

All hinges on overcoming an Italian side that cost £40 million to put together. Although the Norwich manager, Mike Walker, insists the players who saw off Bayern Munich so convincingly have nothing to fear, he has plenty of respect for Osvaldo Bagnoli's side.

"It's not the big names that concern me, more the supporting cast," he said. "We know all about Bergkamp and Sosa, but if they have off days, they have other players who can punish us as well."

Bagnoli, whose team have lost their last three matches, admires the Norwich style. "They are not a typical English side," he said.

Adams expected to return for Arsenal

TONY Adams is expected to return for Arsenal in the London derby at West Ham United tonight. The England defender has recovered from the virus that kept him out of Arsenal's last two matches and England's World Cup qualifying match against San Marino in Bologna.

The West Ham manager, Billy Bonds, will give late fitness tests to three players. David Burrows and Alvin Martin both have Achilles tendon trouble and the midfield player, Ian Bishop, has an ankle injury.

The Tottenham Hotspur striker, Nick Barmby, has recovered from an ankle injury and will take his place in the team against Wimbledon at White Hart Lane. Barmby was carried off on a stretcher during the 1-1 draw with Leeds on Saturday but X-rays revealed only severe bruising. However, Teddy Sheringham, the striker, and the midfielder player, Jason Dozzell, are again ruled out with knee injuries, while David Kerslake has flu after recovering from a fractured wrist that kept the full back out of the last four games.

The Wimbledon left back, Alan Kimble, will have a fitness test on damaged ankle ligaments. Wimbledon need a victory after slipping down the table with just one win in their last seven Premiership outings.

The Sheffield Wednesday left back, Phil King, has resigned from the club. After completing a month's loan at Notts County, he has cancelled his week-to-week contract with Trevor Francis's team. King cost Wednesday £400,000 when he moved from Swindon Town four years ago.

Roy Keane is expected to return for the Premiership leaders, Manchester United, against Ipswich Town at Old Trafford. Keane, who missed Saturday's win over Wimbledon with a blood vessel problem, is likely to take over from Bryan Robson, who has a hamstring injury. Ryan Giggs could be on the substitutes' bench for the third time in succession.

Ipswich expect to have their captain, David Linighan, back after a knee injury, while the goalkeeper, Craig Forrest, is fit after a knee problem.

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Times: 7.20, 8.28, 9.20, 10.15, 11.25

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Changes at Football Association should follow manager's departure

Taylor pays for England's failure

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor's resignation as England manager yesterday morning came as inevitably as the thaw after snow. He failed his calling to take England to the World Cup finals and he has, like every football manager, to be judged on results. Neither overbearing sympathy nor great debate on why he and his assistant, Lawrie McMenemy, had to go is necessary or appropriate.

Taylor will survive. He said as much in his last meeting with journalists the morning after England's elimination from the World Cup a week ago, but even before we question who will be the caretaker manager assigned to England's two friendly matches against Denmark and Germany in March and April, we must insist that the manager should not be held culpable in isolation.

The failure is one of technique, it is born of the pomposity that runs from the top of the English FA right through our club structure, that believes in our parochial club-before-country fashion that our status among the world's top football nations is realistic.

Clearly, the septagenarians at Lancaster Gate must look at their own inert rule. How crass it is that Sir Bert Millichip should reflect, after accepting Taylor's resignation, that the only responsibility he and the FA council hold in England's failure is that they appointed Graham Taylor. And how unpromising is Bert the Inert's promise that the FA is looking at a thorough restructure of the game — "but we have had this in our minds for many, many years".

In that respect, Graham Taylor was the victim of the structure. Yet, remember, he was very much a product of it, a man promoted on the basis of his successful, disciplined and highly-organised club management into an international arena beyond his experience, beyond his imagination and well beyond his calling.

He struggled with the beast for 38 matches, but as honest as this Lincolnshire man is, he will tell you himself that his team lamentably fell short against the qualifying nations when the result counted.

Facts and figures, damned statistics, matter little. Taylor, like the FA director of coaching and education, Charles

Hughes, lives by them, swears by them. They have helped mislead England into believing claptrap.

Their theories, their promotion of long-ball simplicity (despite the fact that Hughes denounces the term) led England up a cul-de-sac and when Hughes pre-empted Taylor's resignation by pointing the finger at the manager on Monday saying that indecision, in selection and method, compounded the lack of technique in players available, he was really condemning his own part in the process.

The qualities that will take Taylor back resiliently to club management, be it at Wolverhampton Wanderers or perhaps sorting out the rising indebtedness Graeme Souness is compiling at Liverpool, are English to the core.

When he told us a week ago that he can stand the vilification of failure, he looked as if he believed it: "I know what real life is about", he insisted. "I look in the mirror, I look at

'Taylor was promoted into an international arena beyond his experience, his imagination and well beyond his calling'

Graham Taylor, I see a fellow who could perhaps be bitter or a better person. I know which I feel myself to be."

Does he? Seated a few feet away, we believed we saw beneath that mask, behind the mirror, a man plainly hurt, though not as severely so as his predecessor, Bobby Robson, who aged in the job.

Taylor has reddened around the eyes, has once or twice lost self-control in a crowd, but has fought mightily to retain some dignity, some semblance of self-belief even while accusing players at his command of running around like headless chickens.

We can all attempt to be better managers from the safety of the stands, where no responsibilities, no handicaps built into the English system, weigh down on us, but I believe that even before we all start choosing the next incumbent, it is imperative that men such as Peter Swales, the

chairman of England's international committee and sacker supreme at Manchester City, is publicly obliged to stand down.

It was Swales, remember, who said 3½ years ago: "I'm glad England didn't win the World Cup in 1990, otherwise I'd have been saddled with Robson. He wasn't my type of manager, he couldn't take the pressure."

Taylor lost his way after his own declarations that international football was no different, certainly no better, than the English variety. He oscillated between comments about "having to start playing more like an English team" and his own observation that "we have to adapt, we haven't won anything for 26 years playing 4-4-2". So, let him go without sorrow, a manager by no means broken and ultimately a decent and perhaps over-earnest man who we will be glad to see back in his club milieu.

Who takes over? The caretaker will probably be an unemployed, and therefore available, manager. Alas, the obvious man, one with the wiles and the experience of foreign football, Terry Venables, may be beyond the FA pale, in the light of recent events.

The long-term future depends on whether the FA really has the courage this time to restructure the coaching philosophy and the authority to cut down the Premiership.

Howard Wilkinson, at Leeds, where the chairman honestly admits England is no concern of his, would surely be too similar in nature, too much a man of English club football, for us to know that he could adapt, as Taylor didn't, in the complicated foreign waters.

After that, the two-tier idea of, say, Don Howe guiding Ray Wilkins, or any of the handful of players who have performed overseas, is attractive, but ultimately a gamble. Everything is, such is the real failure of the overlords of Lancaster Gate to provide continuity and stability in the succession of England management.

Taylor's exit, page 1
Diary, page 18
Simon Barnes, page 42
Reign ends, page 42



Taylor and McMenemy leave the dugout at the end of England's defeat in Norway during England's doomed World Cup campaign

Consoling words for crestfallen manager

By KEITH PRICE



Millichip: regret

GRAHAM Taylor would not have been dismissed if he had wanted to see out the remaining eight months of his contract as the England manager. Both Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, and Graham Kelly, the chief executive, said yesterday that they had accepted his resignation "with regret".

Taylor had left Lancaster Gate before his decision had been made public, but said it was "always my intention" to resign if England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals. In a brief statement, he described it as "the appropriate course of action in the circumstances". Nobody, he said, "can grasp the depths of my personal disappointment at not qualifying".

Kelly said that Taylor had approached him last Thursday, the day after England's elimination had been confirmed, and asked him to arrange yesterday's meeting.

"I was hoping against hope that the inevitable could be avoided and his resignation was accepted with regret," Kelly said. "We had a general discussion about the situation and he felt that was the proper reaction." Taylor had, he said, "handled himself in these very difficult circumstances with dignity".

"He has brought people to realise that we have got to do more for our team. If that message has finally got home during his 3½ years, because of what he has done and said, he will have left a lasting legacy for English football."

Sir Bert said it was "a very sad day for me" and that Taylor had acted "promptly and honourably". Both he and Kelly thought the time was now right for an overhaul of the England management structure.

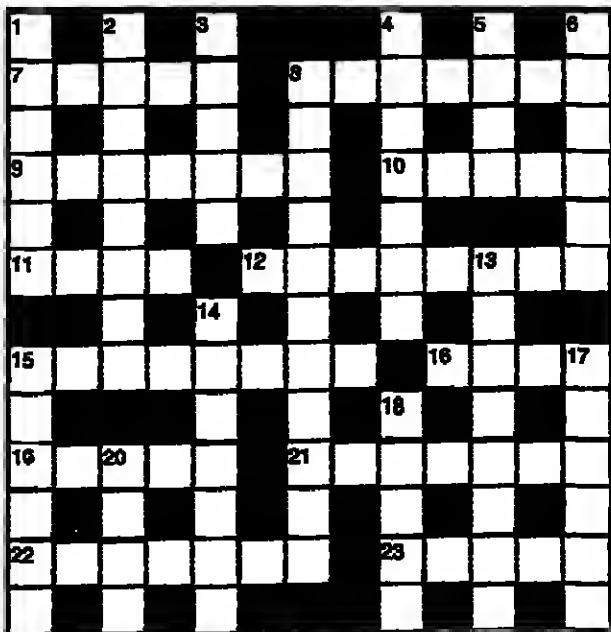
"People within the FA may think there is no better time to look at it," Sir Bert said. It was almost certain that a caretaker manager would be appointed for England's next two matches, against Denmark at Wembley on March 9 and against Germany in Hamburg on April 20. A decision on a full-time successor would be made "not today, not tomorrow... we must make the right decision."

Kelly said that the time was ripe for "evolution rather than revolution. Revolution does not sit easily with the English game, but evolution is certainly

needed". A structure had to be put in place "that ensures continuity on and off the field". Asked if that meant adopting the two-tier system favoured in Germany, he said: "Possibly changes will be made."

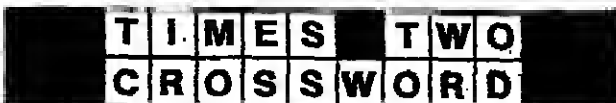
England's assistant manager, Lawrie McMenemy, who also resigned, said: "Graham kept me informed for the last week what he intended to do. Once he announced his resignation, the honourable thing to do was to announce mine as well."

William Hill, the bookmaker, has made Steve Coppell and Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, 7-2 joint favourites to become the next permanent England manager. "I'm amazed to have been made favourite," Coppell, who is out of work, said. "I don't want it."



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No 21

ACROSS

- 7 Professorship (5)
- 8 Lickspittle (7)
- 9 Pot in hole in desk (3-4)
- 10 Stuntman (5)
- 11 Foreign Secretary, 1905-16 (4)
- 12 Store with many branches (8)
- 16 Thin glassware for lab experiment (4-4)
- 16 Graze with sharp weapon (4)
- 19 Planetary circuit (5)
- 21 Disease (7)
- 22 Sordidly filthy (7)
- 23 Desperately desire (5)

DOWN

- 1 Hurting dully (6)
- 2 Ignorance (8)
- 3 Lawn for bowls (5)
- 4 Day of rest (7)
- 5 Muse of history (4)
- 6 House of William III (6)
- 8 Unable to distinguish some shades (6-5)
- 13 Supermarkets' cut-throat competition (5-3)
- 14 Dignified, impressive (7)
- 15 Philosophy school based on Lao Tzu (6)
- 17 Destiny (6)
- 18 Without milk (5)
- 20 Depressed (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 20

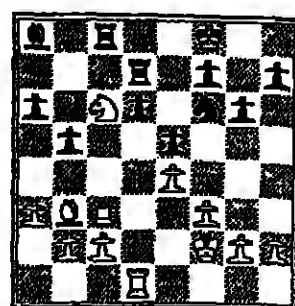
ACROSS: 1 Crosspatch 9 Oversee 10 Libra 11 Tess 12 Malagasy 14 Muscat 15 Morse 18 Raspurin 20 Rice 22 Worth 23 Precede 24 Refractory

DOWN: 2 Rosy 3 See-saw 4 Polka dot 5 Tibia 6 Heavy sleeper 7 Bottom drawer 8 Versus 13 Babushka 16 Shiner 17 Limpet 19 Serif 21 Lear



By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 16. This position is the key to an oversight made by Kasparov which eventually led to his only defeat in the match. What had he missed? White to play.



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 8



By Philip Howard

ERUCTION

- a. Making excuses
- b. Belching
- c. Fallow cultivation

DEVANAGARI

- a. An alphabet
- b. A Hindu caste
- c. A bitter spice

FARRAGINOUS

- a. Miscellaneous
- b. Argumentative
- c. Made from wheat

GAW

- a. The hoodie crew
- b. An open drain
- c. An ersatz jewel

Answers on page 41

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